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KILLER FIRST ISSUE!
FORCE WORKS
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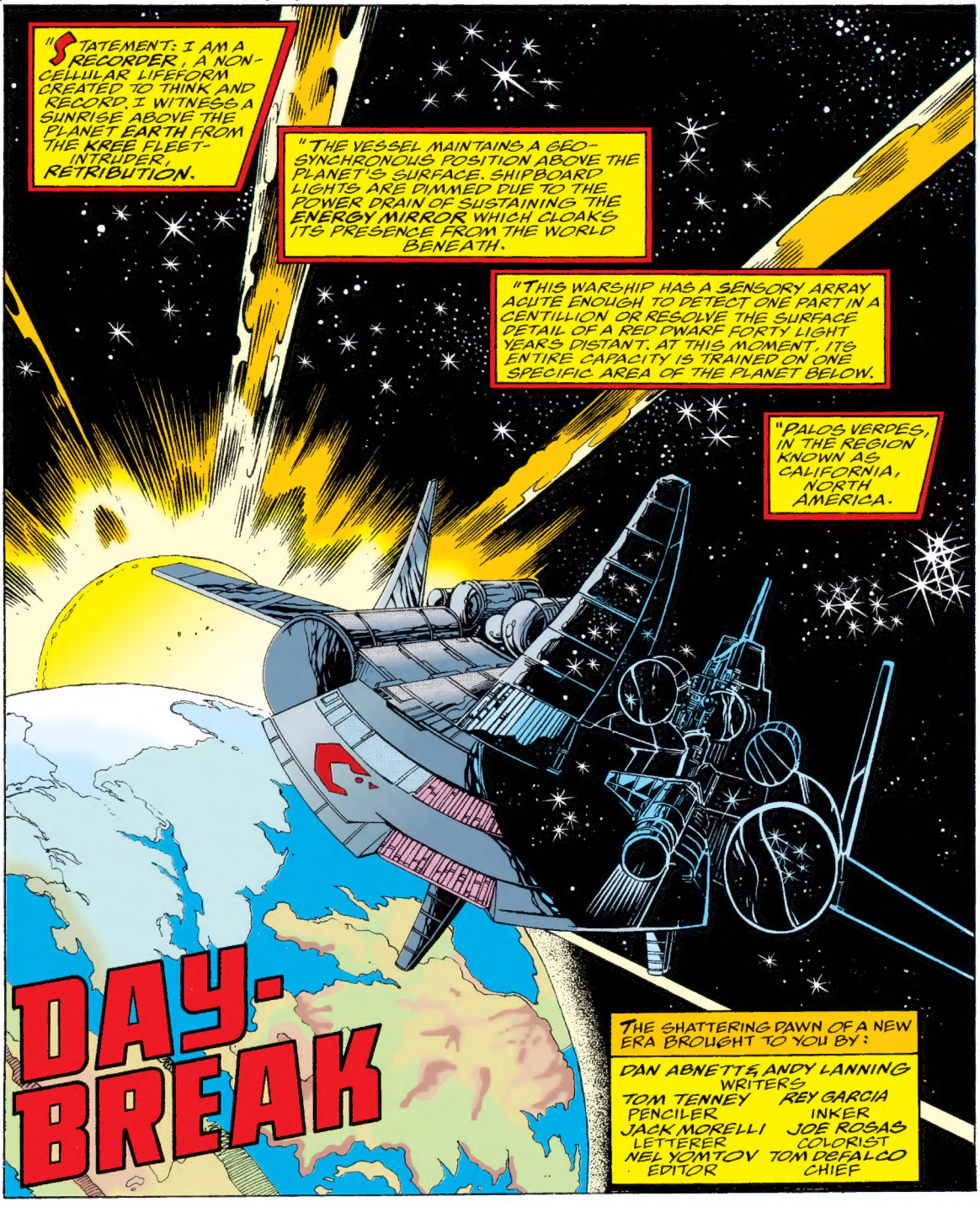
IRON MAN, SCARLET WITCH, U.S. AGENT, SPIDER-WOMAN, WONDER MAN. . . BATTLE-HARDENED HEROES OF AWESOME POWER AND COURAGE WHO HAVE CUT LOOSE FROM THE PAST TO FORGE A NEW TEAM READY TO CONFRONT THE CHALLENGES OF THESE DANGEROUS MODERN TIMES. . .

STAN LEE PRESENTS: FORCE WORKS



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"THE RETRIBUTION'S BRIDGE IS QUIET EXCEPT FOR THE HUM OF MUTED SONIC SURVEILLANCE AND THE LOW COMMENTARY OF BO'SUN STUG BAR.

"STUG BAR'S VOICE IS A WHITE NOISE WHISPER THROUGH A SYNTHETIC LARYNX. THE FRONT OF HIS THROAT WAS TORN OUT DURING THE MUTINY THAT LED TO HIS TRANSFER TO THE STAR-STEALTH CADRE.

BIOSPHERE SIGNATURE FOR ALPHA QUARRY IS STILL STRONG. HE'S MOVING BUT OUR TRACE IS STRONG.

BETA QUARRY REMAINS STATIONARY AT THE MANSION LOCATION.

COMMANDER, WE HAVE THE ADVANTAGE. WE HAVE COME UP ON THEM AS SILENTLY AS POISON IN BLOOD. THEY ARE COMPLETELY UNPREPARED. WE SHOULD STRIKE NOW.

STAND ASIDE, RECORDER.

"MAJOR KALUM LO COMMANDS THE STAR-STEALTH CADRE. THE TISSUE OF HIS FACE IS CORRUPTED BY CRYO-TRAUMA, A COMMON TRAIT IN THOSE WHO SPEND LONG PERIODS IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION.

WE'LL NOT STRIKE YET, BO'SUN. WE'LL WAIT UNTIL BOTH QUARRIES CAN BE TAKEN TOGETHER.

"A COMMON TRAIT IN THOSE WHO WAIT YEARS TO STRIKE.

REMEMBER, BAR... WE ARE FALLEN HALA'S STARSTEALTH. THERE ARE TWO THINGS WE EXCEL AT...

"A COMMON TRAIT IN THIS ENTIRE CREW...

TORRANCE

PALOS VERDES ESTATES

ROLLING HILLS

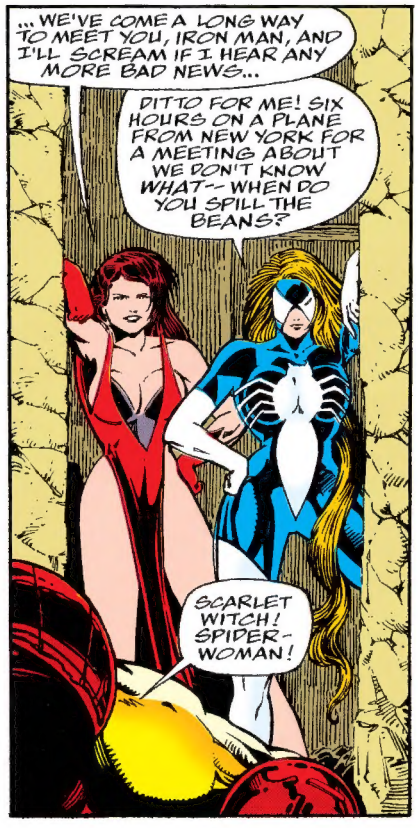
RANCHO PALOS VERDES

... AND WAITING IS ONE OF THEM.

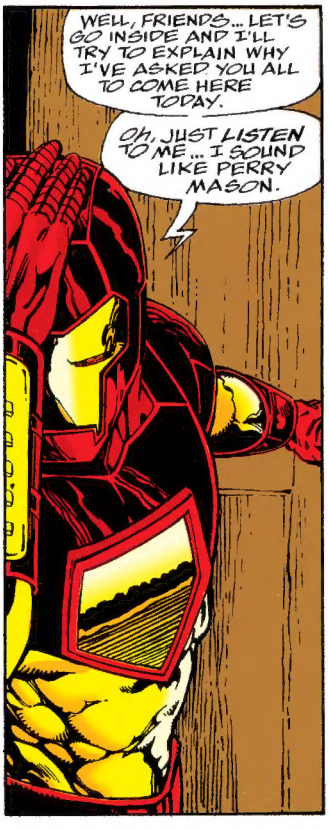
SAN PEDRO CH.

BELOW, AT THE KNIFE-POINT OF THEIR SCRUTINY...
...THE AVENGERS WEST COAST COMPOUND.
IT BREAKS MY HEART TO SEE THE OLD PLACE THIS WAY.
TRUE ENOUGH, WONDER MAN. IT'S THE END OF AN ERA.
THE WEST COAST AVENGERS ARE THROUGH AND THIS SAD RUIN IS OUR ONLY MEMORIAL.

IF ONLY I'D BEEN THERE! I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT THE EAST COASTERS PULLED ON US! QUESTIONING OUR PERFORMANCE, CRITICIZING OUR MOTIVATIONS, AND BOOTING US OFF THE TEAM.'
I TOLD YOU-- THEY DIDN'T FIRE US. WE ALL QUIT WHEN WE REALIZED THERE WAS NO PLACE FOR US.
THE AVENGERS ARE GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME RIGHT NOW. AVENGERS WEST JUST TOOK THE HEAT FOR PROBLEMS THAT RUN THROUGH THE WHOLE MEMBERSHIP. BUT LOOKING ON THE BRIGHT SIDE...
OH, SO THERE IS A BRIGHT SIDE...
AS WITNESSED IN AVENGERS WEST COAST #102:-- NEL


...WE'VE COME A LONG WAY TO MEET YOU, IRON MAN, AND I'LL SCREAM IF I HEAR ANY MORE BAD NEWS...
DITTO FOR ME! SIX HOURS ON A PLANE FROM NEW YORK FOR A MEETING ABOUT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT-- WHEN DO YOU SPILL THE BEANS?
SCARLET WITCH! SPIDER-WOMAN!

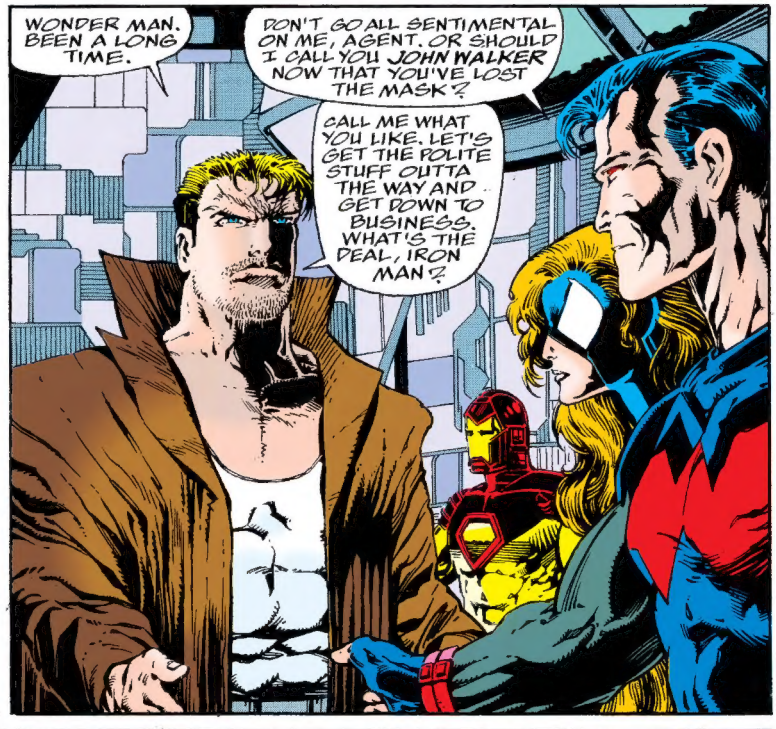
I'M GLAD YOU BOTH MADE IT-- YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED WHEN YOU HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.
SIMON. IT'S REALLY GOOD TO SEE YOU.
YOU TOO, WANDA. AND I SEE THAT THE SCARLET WITCH HAS A STUNNING NEW COSTUME.

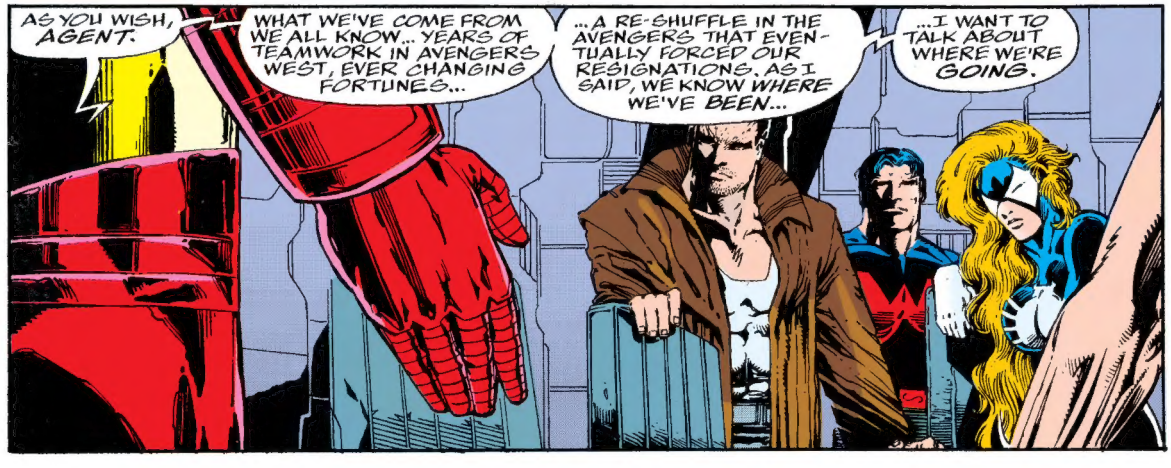

WELL, FRIENDS... LET'S GO INSIDE AND I'LL TRY TO EXPLAIN WHY I'VE ASKED YOU ALL TO COME HERE TODAY.
OH, JUST LISTEN TO ME... I SOUND LIKE PERRY MASON.

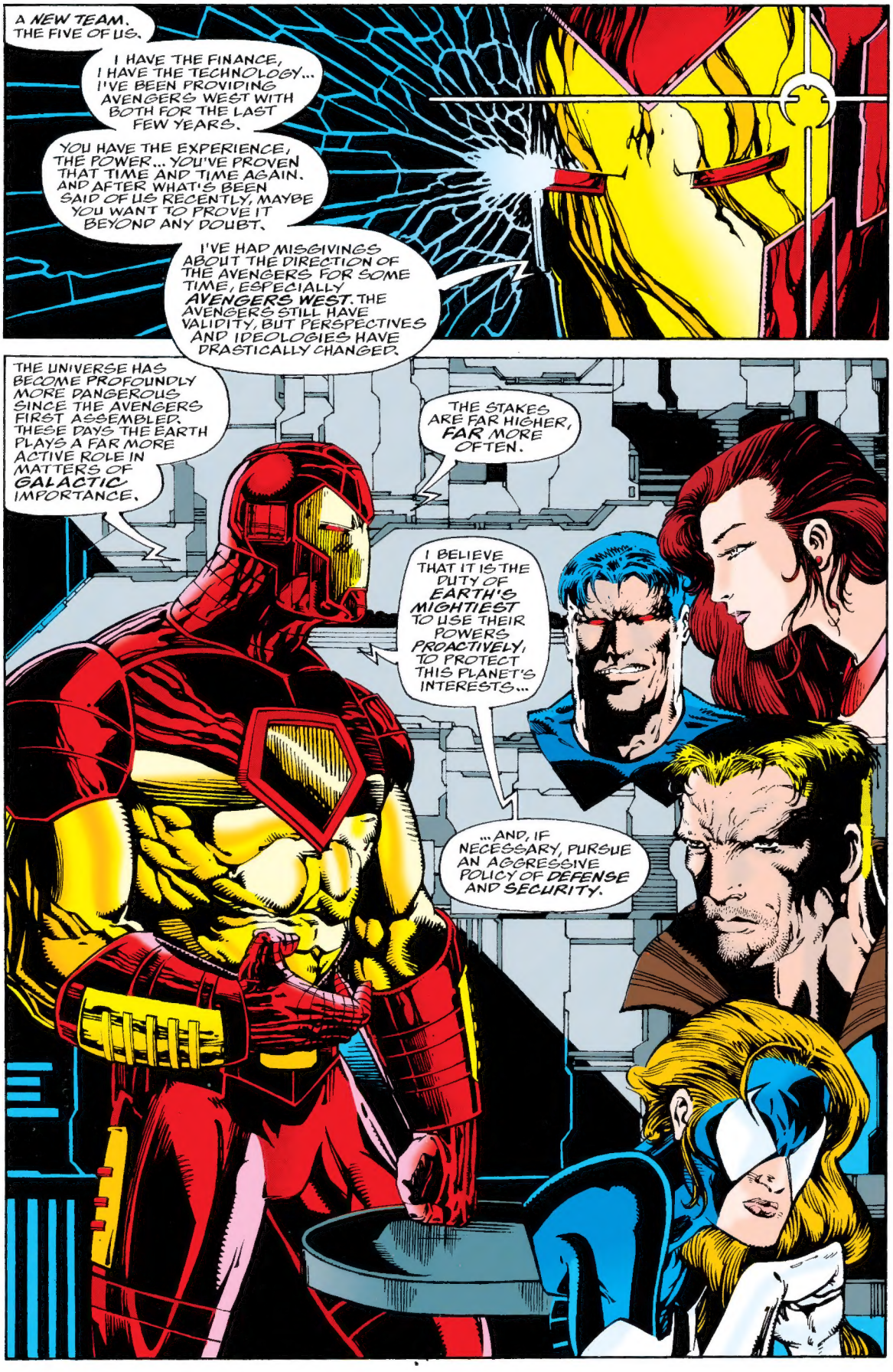
WE'VE STILL GOT POWER IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM. LET'S SET UP THERE.
WHAT ABOUT U.S. AGENT?
WE CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER. I'D HOPED HE'D RESPOND TO MY INVITATION, BUT HE CLEARLY HAS PLANS OF HIS--

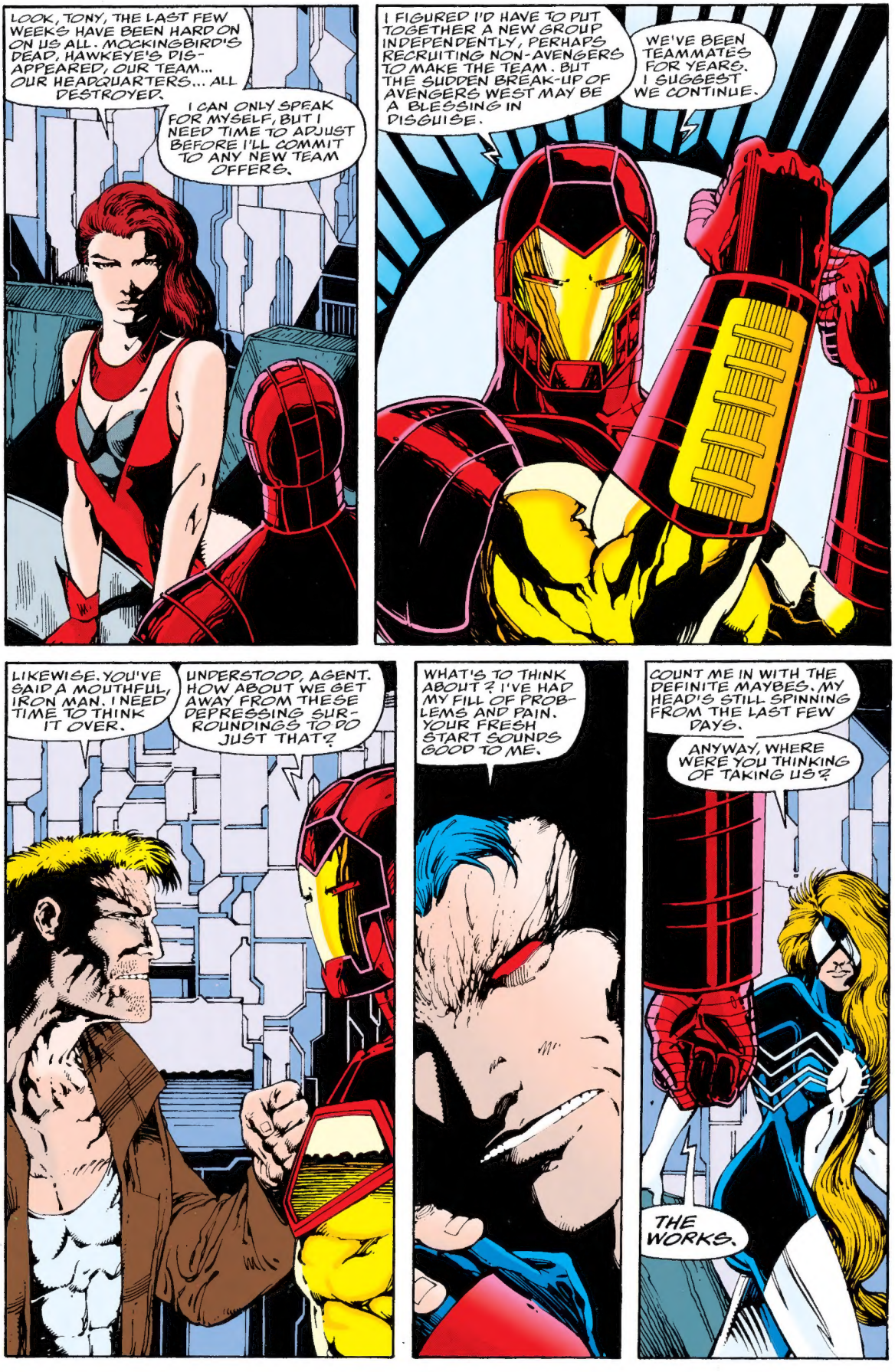
YOU'RE LATE.
--OWN.
AGENT, YOU MADE IT. BUT YOU'RE IN CIVVIES. WHERE IS YOUR COSTUME?

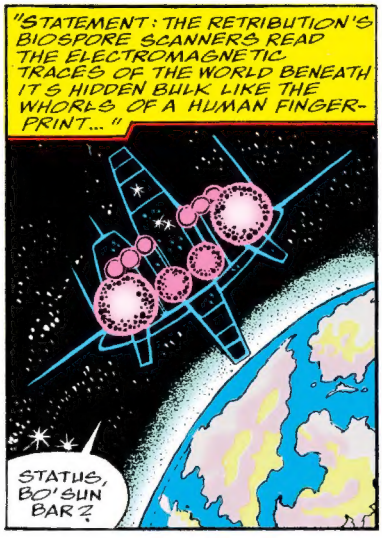
I DITCHED IT. IT DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING ANYMORE.*
I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO IT, OKAY?
*AWC #102.


WONDER MAN. BEEN A LONG TIME.
DON'T GO ALL SENTIMENTAL ON ME, AGENT. OR SHOULD I CALL YOU JOHN WALKER NOW THAT YOU'VE LOST THE MASK?
CALL ME WHAT YOU LIKE. LET'S GET THE POLITE STUFF OUTTA THE WAY AND GET DOWN TO BUSINESS. WHAT'S THE DEAL, IRON MAN?

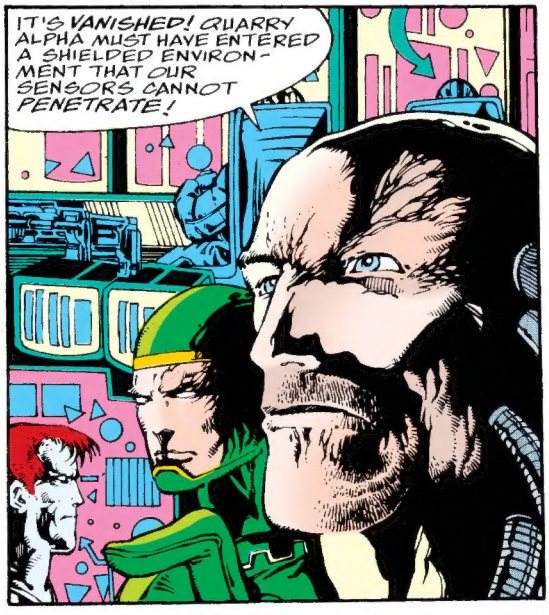

AS YOU WISH, AGENT.
WHAT WE'VE COME FROM WE ALL KNOW... YEARS OF TEAMWORK IN AVENGERS WEST, EVER CHANGING FORTUNES...
...A RE-SHUFFLE IN THE AVENGERS THAT EVENTUALLY FORCED OUR RESIGNATIONS. AS I SAID, WE KNOW WHERE WE'VE BEEN...
...I WANT TO TALK ABOUT WHERE WE'RE GOING.


A NEW TEAM. THE FIVE OF US.
I HAVE THE FINANCE, I HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY... I'VE BEEN PROVIDING AVENGERS WEST WITH BOTH FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS.
YOU HAVE THE EXPERIENCE, THE POWER... YOU'VE PROVEN THAT TIME AND TIME AGAIN. AND AFTER WHAT'S BEEN SAID OF US RECENTLY, MAYBE YOU WANT TO PROVE IT BEYOND ANY DOUBT.
I'VE HAD MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE DIRECTION OF THE AVENGERS FOR SOME TIME, ESPECIALLY AVENGERS WEST. THE AVENGERS STILL HAVE VALIDITY, BUT PERSPECTIVES AND IDEOLOGIES HAVE DRASTICALLY CHANGED.
THE UNIVERSE HAS BECOME PROFOUNDLY MORE DANGEROUS SINCE THE AVENGERS FIRST ASSEMBLED. THESE DAYS THE EARTH PLAYS A FAR MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN MATTERS OF GALACTIC IMPORTANCE.
THE STAKES ARE FAR HIGHER, FAR MORE OFTEN.
I BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE DUTY OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST TO USE THEIR POWERS PROACTIVELY, TO PROTECT THIS PLANET'S INTERESTS...
...AND, IF NECESSARY, PURSUE AN AGGRESSIVE POLICY OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY.

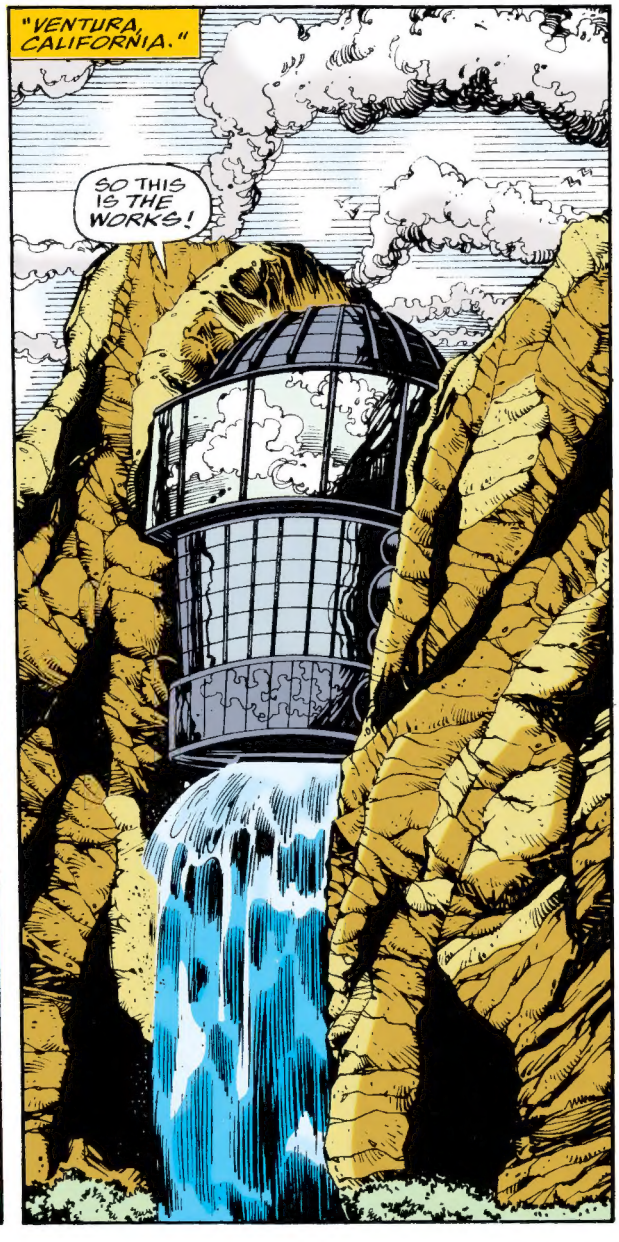

LOOK, TONY, THE LAST FEW WEEKS HAVE BEEN HARD ON ON US ALL. MOCKINGBIRD'S DEAD, HAWKEYE'S DISAPPEARED, OUR TEAM... OUR HEADQUARTERS... ALL DESTROYED.
I CAN ONLY SPEAK FOR MYSELF, BUT I NEED TIME TO ADJUST BEFORE I'LL COMMIT TO ANY NEW TEAM OFFERS.
I FIGURED I'D HAVE TO PUT TOGETHER A NEW GROUP INDEPENDENTLY, PERHAPS RECRUITING NON-AVENGERS TO MAKE THE TEAM. BUT THE SUDDEN BREAK-UP OF AVENGERS WEST MAY BE A BLESSING IN DISGUISE.
WE'VE BEEN TEAMMATES FOR YEARS. I SUGGEST WE CONTINUE.
LIKEWISE. YOU'VE SAID A MOUTHFUL, IRON MAN. I NEED TIME TO THINK IT OVER.
UNDERSTOOD, AGENT. HOW ABOUT WE GET AWAY FROM THESE DEPRESSING SURROUNDINGS TO DO JUST THAT?
WHAT'S TO THINK ABOUT? I'VE HAD MY FILL OF PROBLEMS AND PAIN. YOUR FRESH START SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.
COUNT ME IN WITH THE DEFINITE MAYBES. MY HEAD'S STILL SPINNING FROM THE LAST FEW DAYS.
ANYWAY, WHERE WERE YOU THINKING OF TAKING US?
THE WORKS.

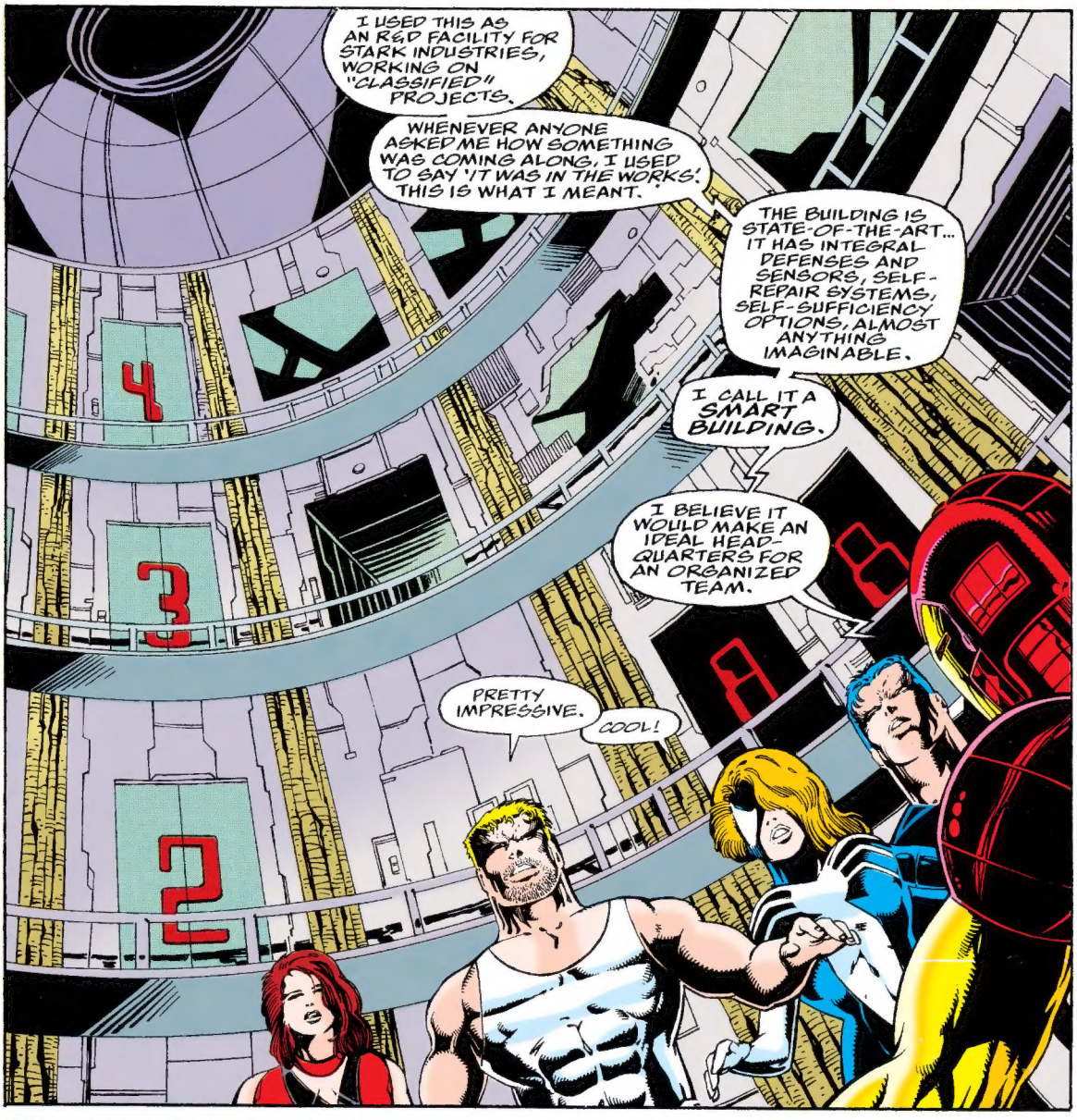

"STATEMENT: THE RETRIBUTION'S BIOSPORE SCANNERS READ THE ELECTROMAGNETIC TRACES OF THE WORLD BENEATH IT'S HIDDEN BULK LIKE THE WHORLS OF A HUMAN FINGER-PRINT..."
STATUS, BO'SUN BAR?

"THERE IS TENSION IN KALUM LO'S VOICE. HE ANTICIPATES THE VIOLENT ENDGAME OF THIS STEALTH MISSION."
QUARRY ALPHA IS ON THE MOVE AGAIN. SPORE TRACKERS ARE LOCKED ONTO~ BY HALA'S GHOST!


IT'S VANISHED! QUARRY ALPHA MUST HAVE ENTERED A SHIELDED ENVIRONMENT THAT OUR SENSORS CANNOT PENETRATE!

WHAT WERE THE QUARRY'S LAST KNOWN CO-ORDINATES,? BO'SUN?
LOCATION DETAILS COMING ON SCREEN NOW, MAJOR.
IT IS AN AREA KNOWN AS...


"VENTURA, CALIFORNIA."
SO THIS IS THE WORKS!


I USED THIS AS AN R&D FACILITY FOR STARK INDUSTRIES, WORKING ON "CLASSIFIED" PROJECTS.
WHENEVER ANYONE ASKED ME HOW SOMETHING WAS COMING ALONG, I USED TO SAY 'IT WAS IN THE WORKS'. THIS IS WHAT I MEANT.
THE BUILDING IS STATE-OF-THE-ART... IT HAS INTEGRAL DEFENSES AND SENSORS, SELF-REPAIR SYSTEMS, SELF-SUFFICIENCY OPTIONS, ALMOST ANYTHING IMAGINABLE.
I CALL IT A SMART BUILDING.
I BELIEVE IT WOULD MAKE AN IDEAL HEAD-QUARTERS FOR AN ORGANIZED TEAM.
PRETTY IMPRESSIVE.
COOL!
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3
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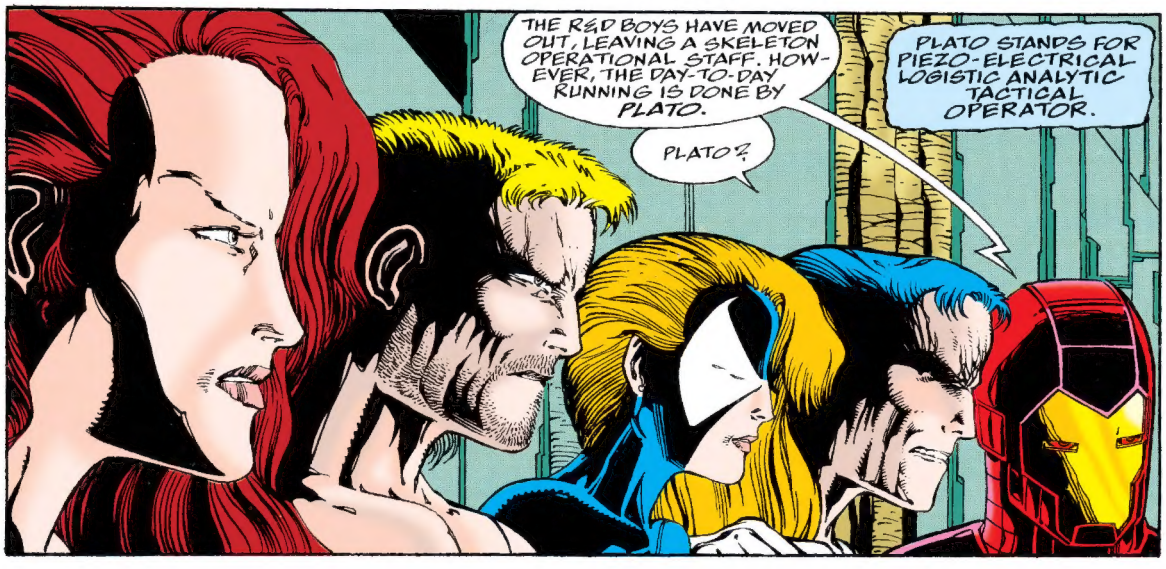
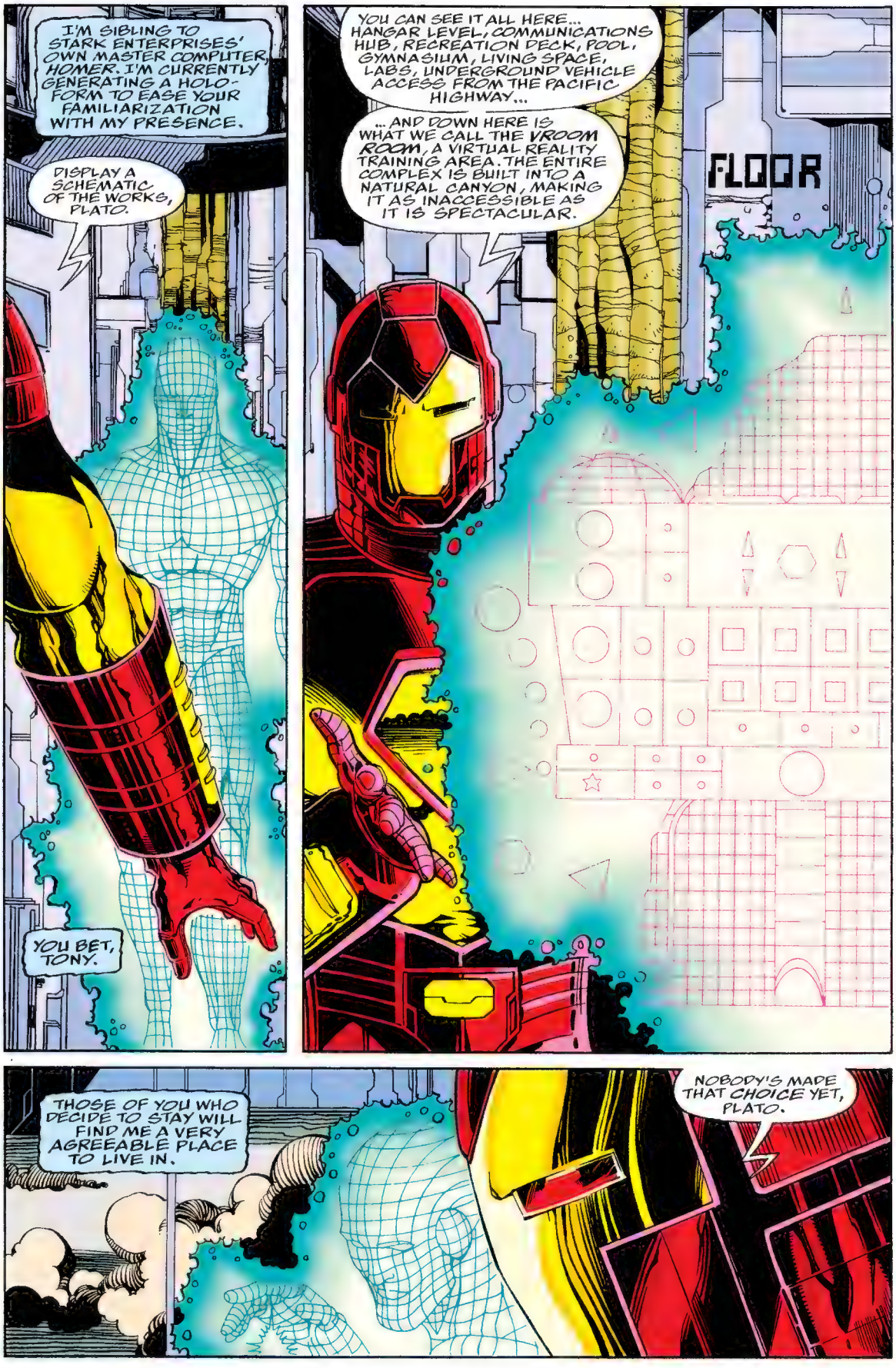
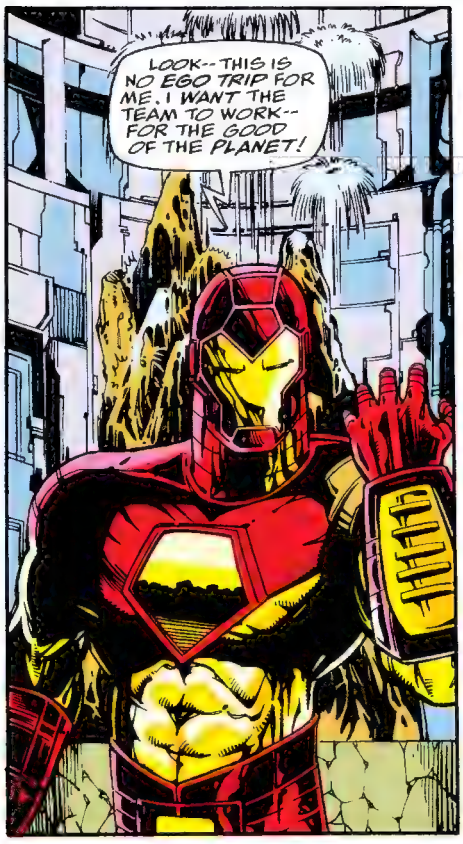
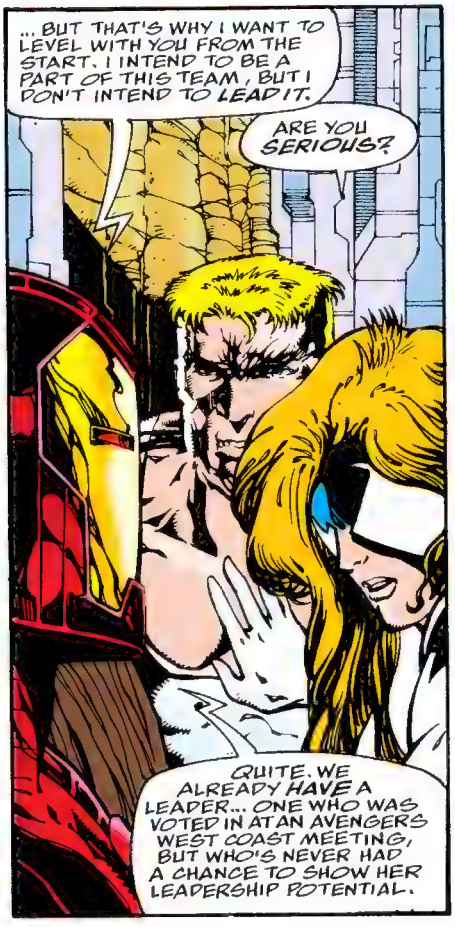
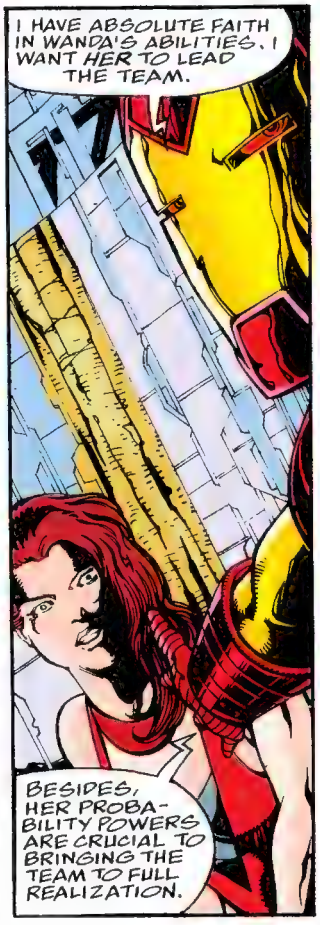

THE R&D BOYS HAVE MOVED OUT, LEAVING A SKELETON OPERATIONAL STAFF. HOW-EVER, THE DAY-TO-DAY RUNNING IS DONE BY PLATO.
PLATO?
PLATO STANDS FOR PIEZO-ELECTRICAL LOGISTIC ANALYTIC TACTICAL OPERATOR.


I'M SIBLING TO STARK ENTERPRISES' OWN MASTER COMPUTER, HOMER. I'M CURRENTLY GENERATING A HOLO-FORM TO EASE YOUR FAMILIARIZATION WITH MY PRESENCE.
DISPLAY A SCHEMATIC OF THE WORKS, PLATO.
YOU BET, TONY.
YOU CAN SEE IT ALL HERE... HANGAR LEVEL, COMMUNICATIONS HUB, RECREATION DECK, POOL, GYMNASIUM, LIVING SPACE, LABS, UNDERGROUND VEHICLE ACCESS FROM THE PACIFIC HIGHWAY...
...AND DOWN HERE IS WHAT WE CALL THE VROOM ROOM, A VIRTUAL REALITY TRAINING AREA. THE ENTIRE COMPLEX IS BUILT INTO A NATURAL CANYON, MAKING IT AS INACCESSIBLE AS IT IS SPECTACULAR.
FLOOR
THOSE OF YOU WHO DECIDE TO STAY WILL FIND ME A VERY AGREEABLE PLACE TO LIVE IN.
NOBODY'S MADE THAT CHOICE YET, PLATO.

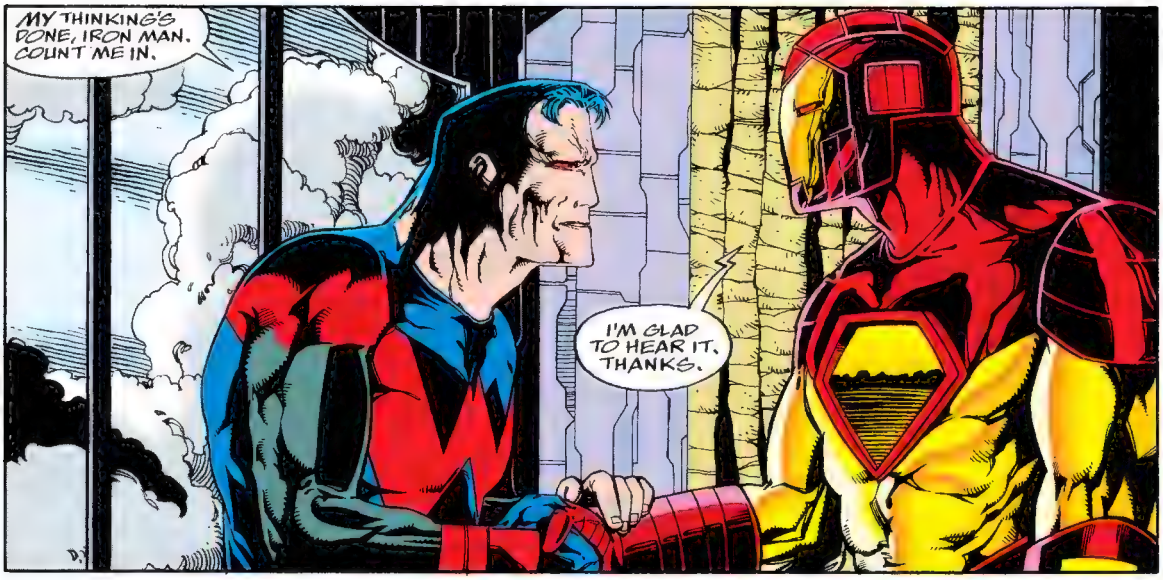

LOOK--THIS IS NO EGO TRIP FOR ME. I WANT THE TEAM TO WORK--FOR THE GOOD OF THE PLANET!

PRETTY SLICK SET-UP, IRON MAN... YOUR OWN PRIVATE AVENGERS, READY TO ASSEMBLE WHEN YOU CLICK YOUR FINGERS, RIGHT?
NOT QUITE, AGENT, BUT I UNDERSTAND YOUR DOUBTS.
I RUINED AN OLD FRIENDSHIP WITH JIM RHODES--WAR MACHINE--BY FAILING TO BE UP FRONT. AND I'VE YET TO GIVE YOU, MY FORMER TEAM-MATES--ALL THE DETAILS OF MY FEIGNED DEATH...

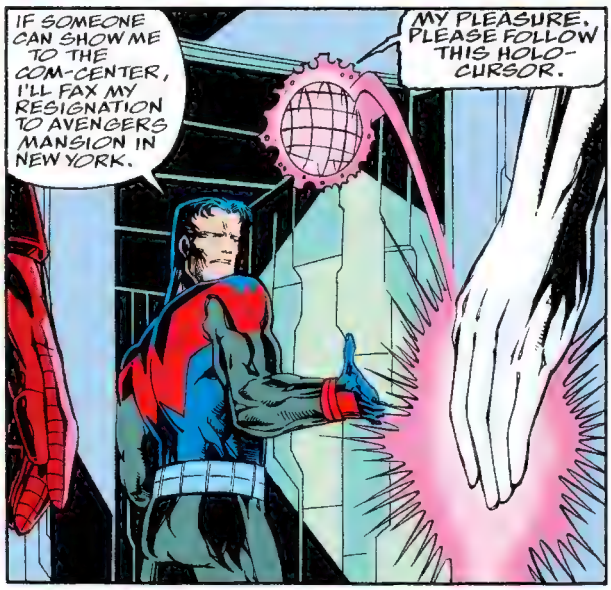

... BUT THAT'S WHY I WANT TO LEVEL WITH YOU FROM THE START. I INTEND TO BE A PART OF THIS TEAM, BUT I DON'T INTEND TO LEAD IT.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
QUITE. WE ALREADY HAVE A LEADER... ONE WHO WAS VOTED IN AT AN AVENGERS WEST COAST MEETING, BUT WHO'S NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO SHOW HER LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL.

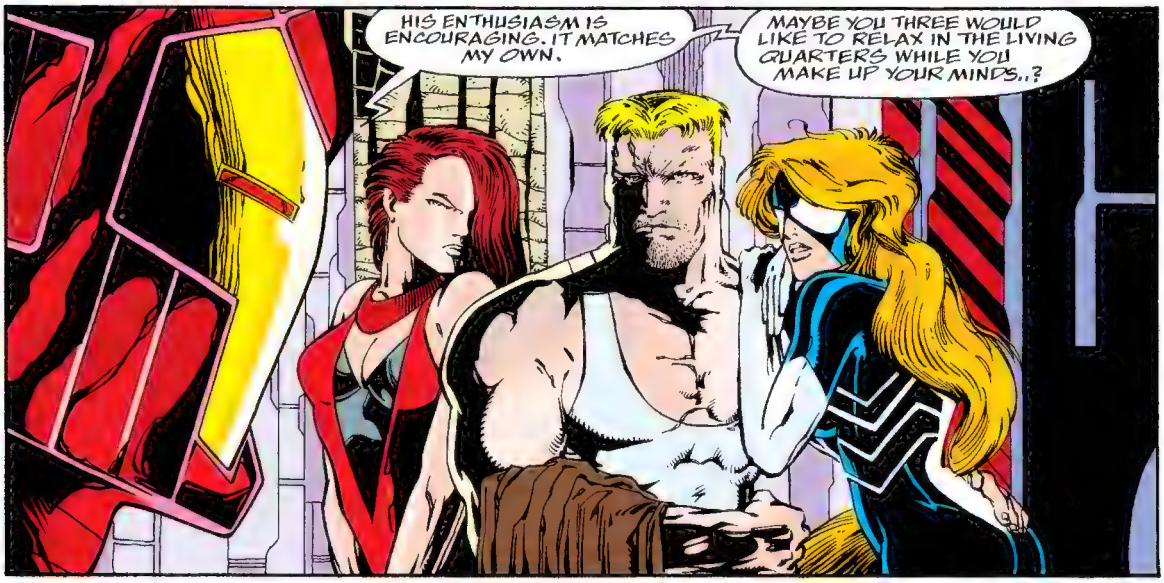

I HAVE ABSOLUTE FAITH IN WANDA'S ABILITIES. I WANT HER TO LEAD THE TEAM.
BESIDES, HER PROBABILITY POWERS ARE CRUCIAL TO BRINGING THE TEAM TO FULL REALIZATION.

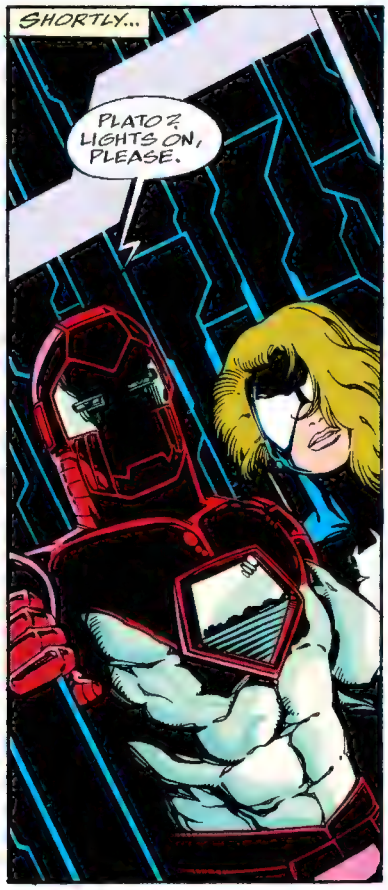
I...
...WHAT CAN I SAY?
I'M FLATTERED.
BUT I'M STILL THINKING ABOUT IT.

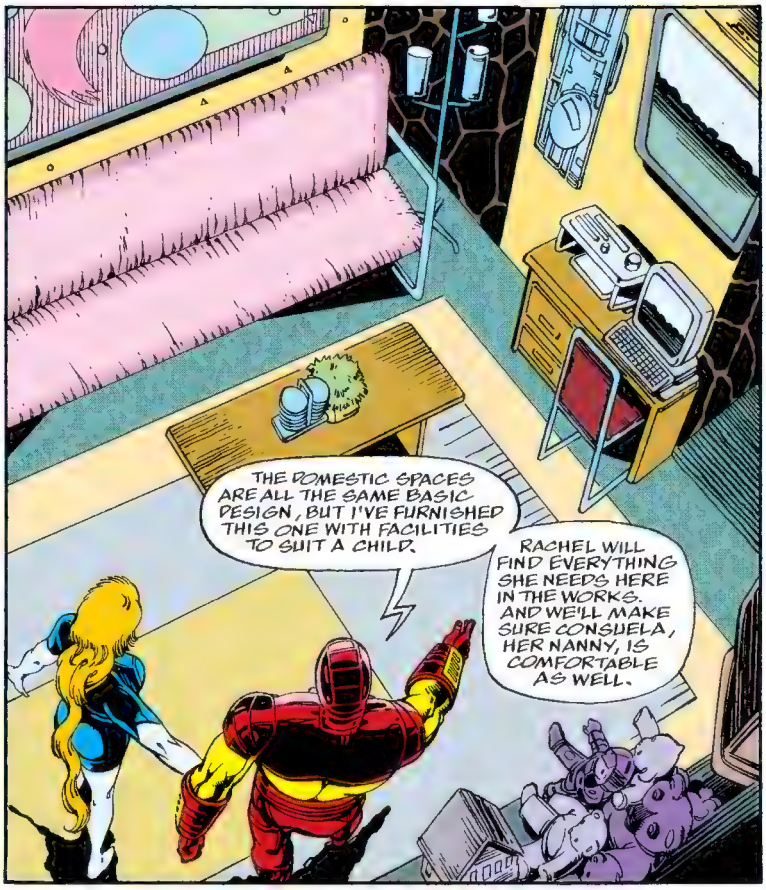

MY THINKING'S DONE, IRON MAN. COUNT ME IN.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT, THANKS.

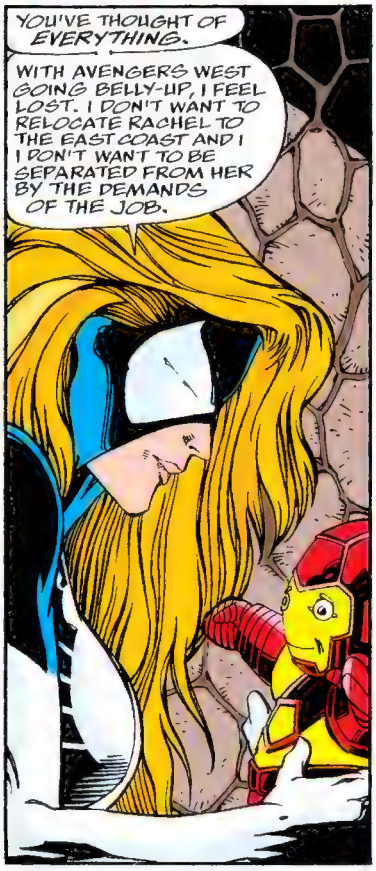
THINGS HAVE BEEN RATHER... HECTIC FOR ME LATELY, AND I'VE BEEN SO WRAPPED UP IN MY OWN AFFAIRS I WASN'T AROUND TO SUPPORT AVENGERS WEST.
THIS FRESH START SOUNDS EXACTLY WHAT I NEED.

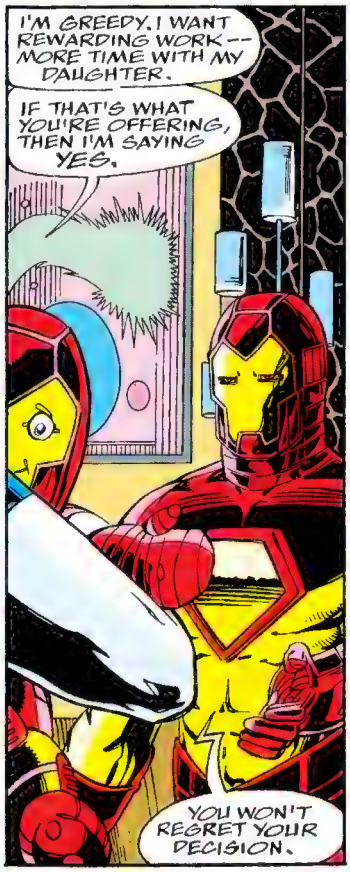

IF SOMEONE CAN SHOW ME TO THE COM-CENTER, I'LL FAX MY RESIGNATION TO AVENGERS MANSION IN NEW YORK.
MY PLEASURE. PLEASE FOLLOW THIS HOLO-CURSOR.

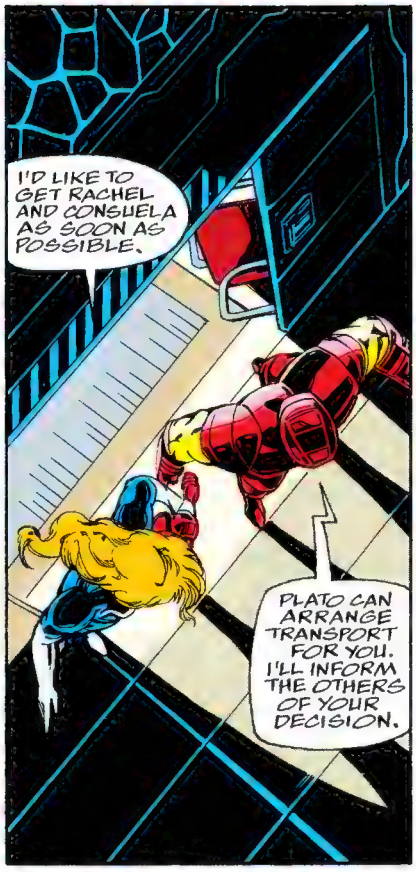

HIS ENTHUSIASM IS ENCOURAGING. IT MATCHES MY OWN.
MAYBE YOU THREE WOULD LIKE TO RELAX IN THE LIVING QUARTERS WHILE YOU MAKE UP YOUR MINDS..?


SHORTLY...
PLATO?, LIGHTS ON, PLEASE.

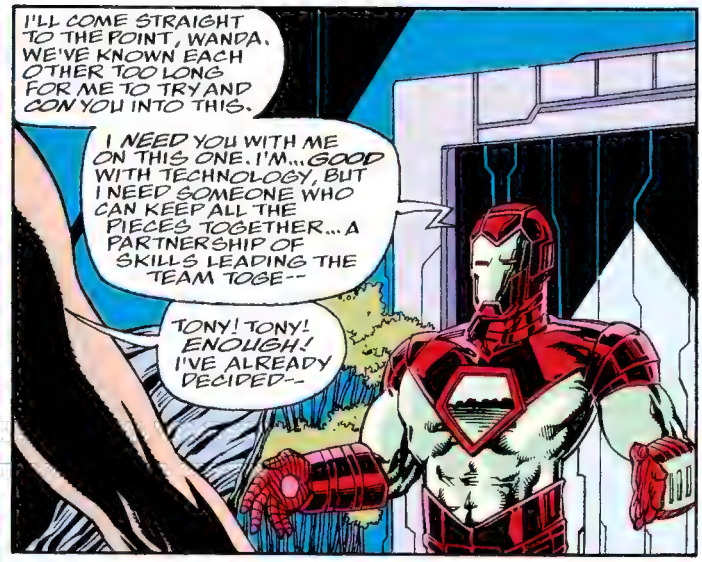

THE DOMESTIC SPACES ARE ALL THE SAME BASIC DESIGN, BUT I'VE FURNISHED THIS ONE WITH FACILITIES TO SUIT A CHILD.
RACHEL WILL FIND EVERYTHING SHE NEEDS HERE IN THE WORKS. AND WE'LL MAKE SURE CONSUELA, HER NANNY, IS COMFORTABLE AS WELL.

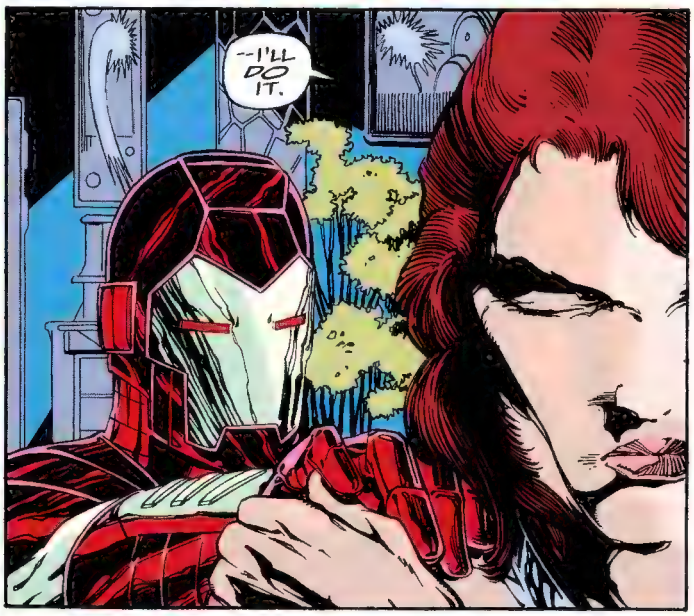

YOU'VE THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING.
WITH AVENGERS WEST GOING BELLY-UP, I FEEL LOST. I DON'T WANT TO RELOCATE RACHEL TO THE EAST COAST AND I DON'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED FROM HER BY THE DEMANDS OF THE JOB.


I'M GREEDY. I WANT REWARDING WORK -- MORE TIME WITH MY DAUGHTER.
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE OFFERING, THEN I'M SAYING YES.
YOU WON'T REGRET YOUR DECISION.

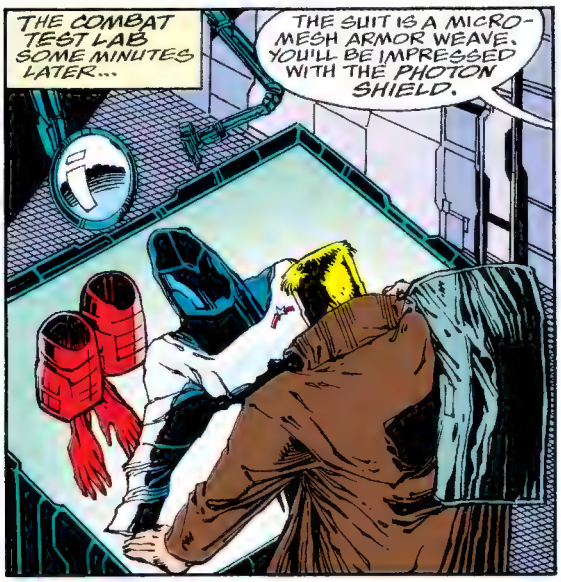

I'D LIKE TO GET RACHEL AND CONSUELA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
PLATO CAN ARRANGE TRANSPORT FOR YOU. I'LL INFORM THE OTHERS OF YOUR DECISION.

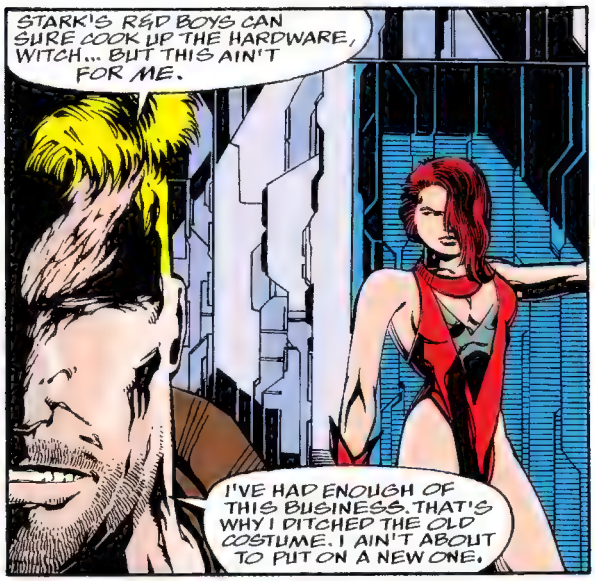
NEARBY...
WANDA? TONY IS OUTSIDE TO SEE YOU.
LET HIM IN, PLATO.


I'LL COME STRAIGHT TO THE POINT, WANDA. WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER TOO LONG FOR ME TO TRY AND CON YOU INTO THIS.
I NEED YOU WITH ME ON THIS ONE. I'M...GOOD WITH TECHNOLOGY, BUT I NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN KEEP ALL THE PIECES TOGETHER...A PARTNERSHIP OF SKILLS LEADING THE TEAM TOGE--
TONY! TONY! ENOUGH! I'VE ALREADY DECIDED--

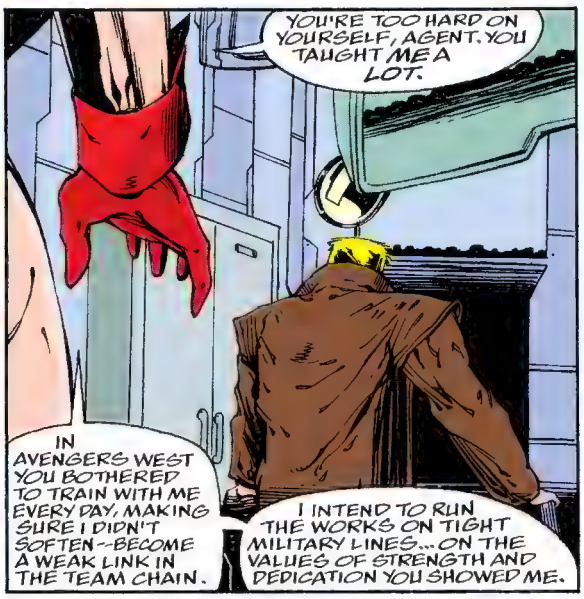

--I'LL DO IT.

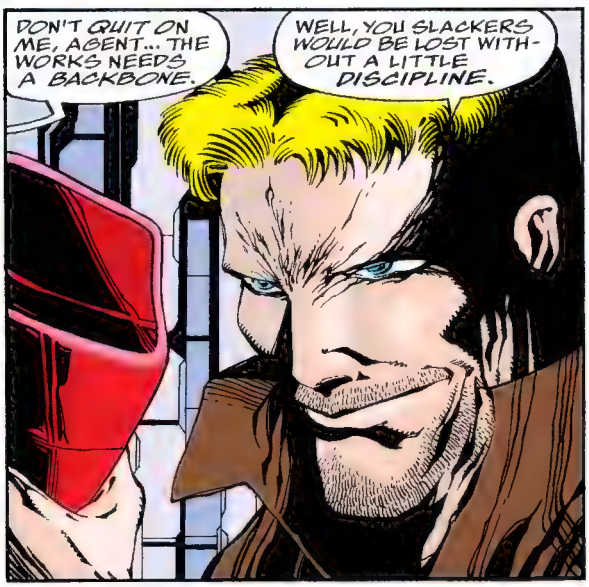
THEN YOUR FIRST DUTY AS TEAM LEADER MAY HAVE JUST PRESENTED ITSELF.


THE COMBAT TEST LAB SOME MINUTES LATER...
THE SUIT IS A MICRO-MESH ARMOR WEAVE. YOU'LL BE IMPRESSED WITH THE PHOTON SHIELD.

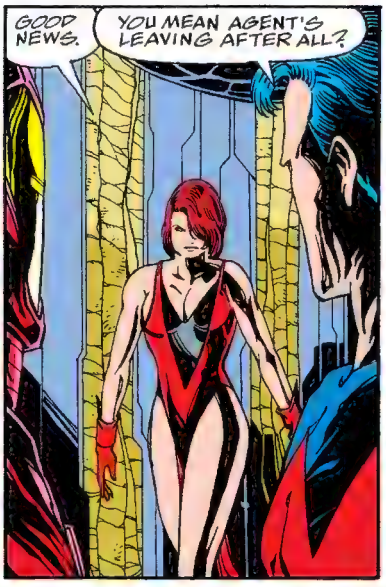

STARK'S R&D BOYS CAN SURE COOK UP THE HARDWARE, WITCH... BUT THIS AIN'T FOR ME.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS BUSINESS. THAT'S WHY I DITCHED THE OLD COSTUME. I AIN'T ABOUT TO PUT ON A NEW ONE.

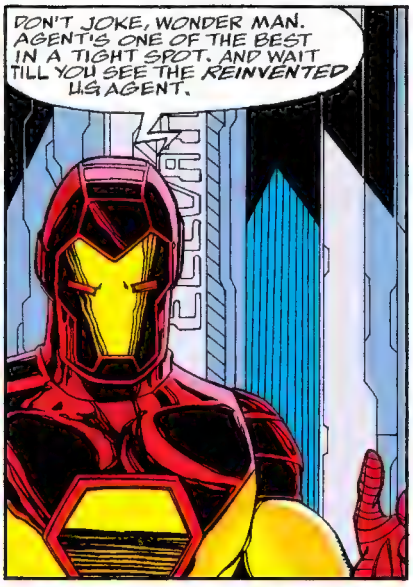
BUT THIS NEW TEAM IS--
IT'S ME THAT'S THE PROBLEM! I'M JUST A BAD COPY OF CAP! A THICK-SKINNED GRUNT WHO THOUGHT HE COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE UNTIL HE REALIZED EVERYONE WAS LAUGHING BEHIND HIS BACK!


YOU'RE TOO HARD ON YOURSELF, AGENT. YOU TAUGHT ME A LOT.
IN AVENGERS WEST YOU BOTHERED TO TRAIN WITH ME EVERY DAY, MAKING SURE I DIDN'T SOFTEN--BECOME A WEAK LINK IN THE TEAM CHAIN.
I INTEND TO RUN THE WORKS ON TIGHT MILITARY LINES... ON THE VALUES OF STRENGTH AND DEDICATION YOU SHOWED ME.

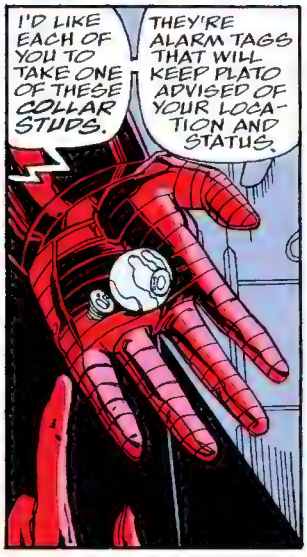

DON'T QUIT ON ME, AGENT... THE WORKS NEEDS A BACKBONE.
WELL, YOU SLACKERS WOULD BE LOST WITHOUT A LITTLE DISCIPLINE.

I GUESS YOU BETTER COUNT ME IN.
WELCOME TO THE WORKS, U.S. AGENT.


GOOD NEWS.
YOU MEAN AGENT'S LEAVING AFTER ALL?

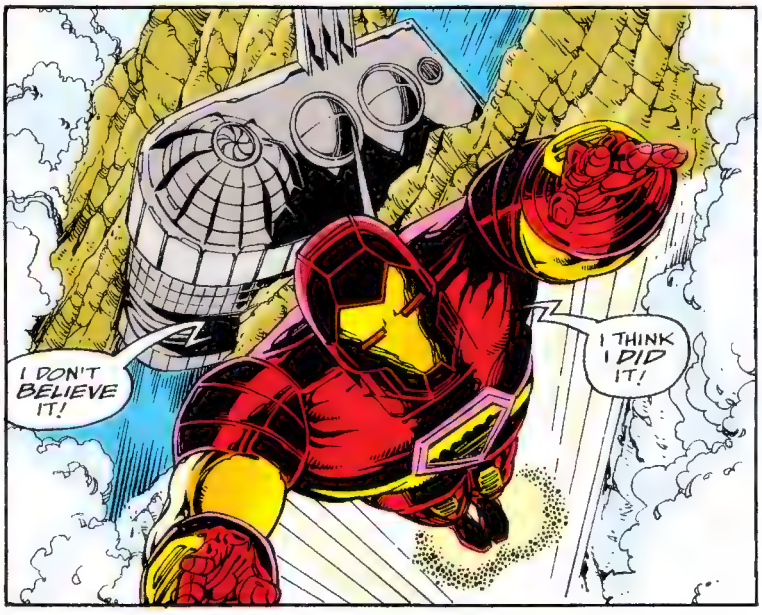

DON'T JOKE, WONDER MAN. AGENT'S ONE OF THE BEST IN A TIGHT SPOT. AND WAIT TILL YOU SEE THE REINVENTED U.S. AGENT.

ELEVATOR TO HANGAR DECK.
SIMON'S SUGGESTED YOU AND HE GO BACK TO THE COMPOUND AND RETRIEVE THE TEAM'S PERSONAL EFFECTS.
FINE BY ME.


I'D LIKE EACH OF YOU TO TAKE ONE OF THESE COLLAR STUDS.
THEY'RE ALARM TAGS THAT WILL KEEP PLATO ADVISED OF YOUR LOCATION AND STATUS.

HANGAR DECK.
YOU SHOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE HANDLING THE CONTROLS OF THE HEX-SHIPS. THEIR DESIGN HAS EVOLVED FROM THE QUINJET MARQUE, AND I'VE FULLY AUTOMATED ALL UNFAMILIAR SYSTEMS.
MAN, WILL YOU LOOK AT THESE!

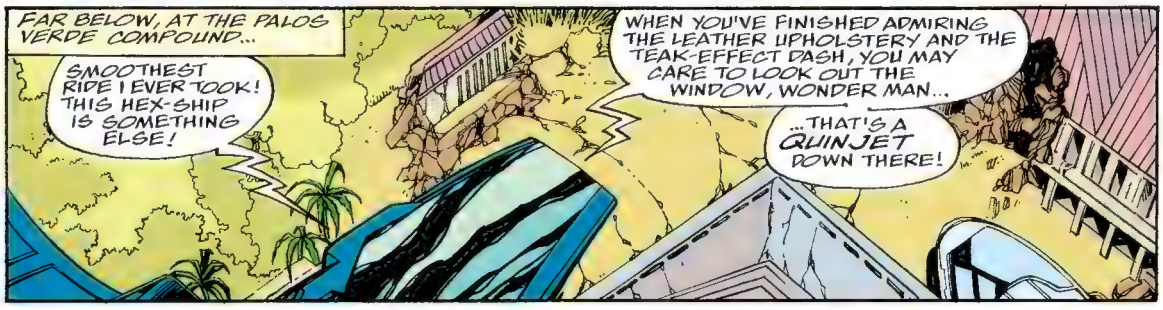
I'M OFF TO THE EAST COAST TO INFORM THE AVENGERS OF OUR NEW STATUS IN PERSON. IT SEEMS ONLY POLITE.
SEE YOU IN A FEW HOURS.

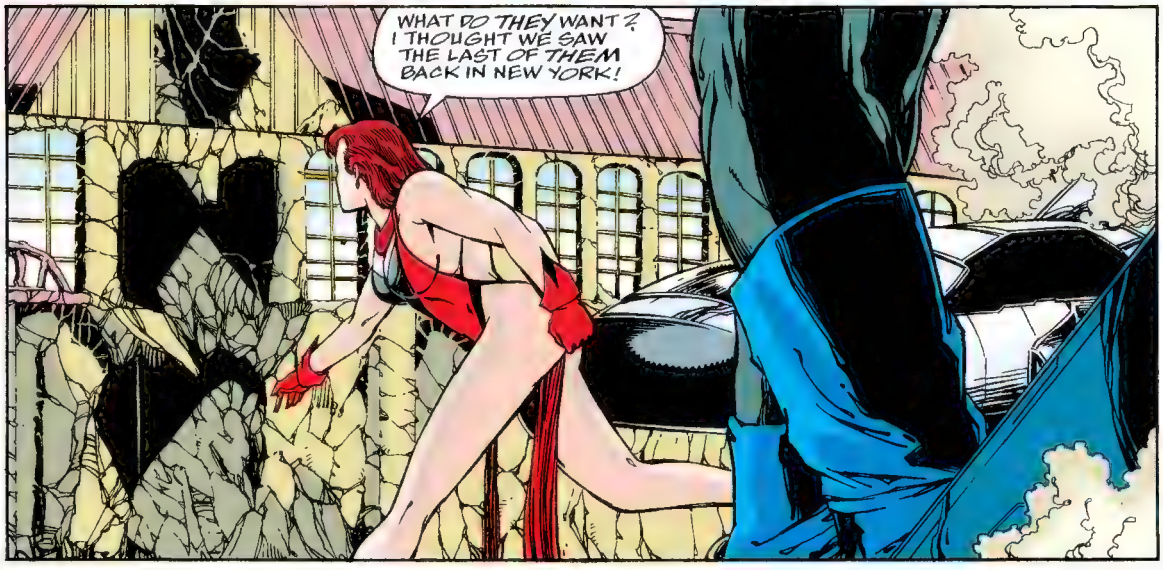

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
I THINK I DID IT!

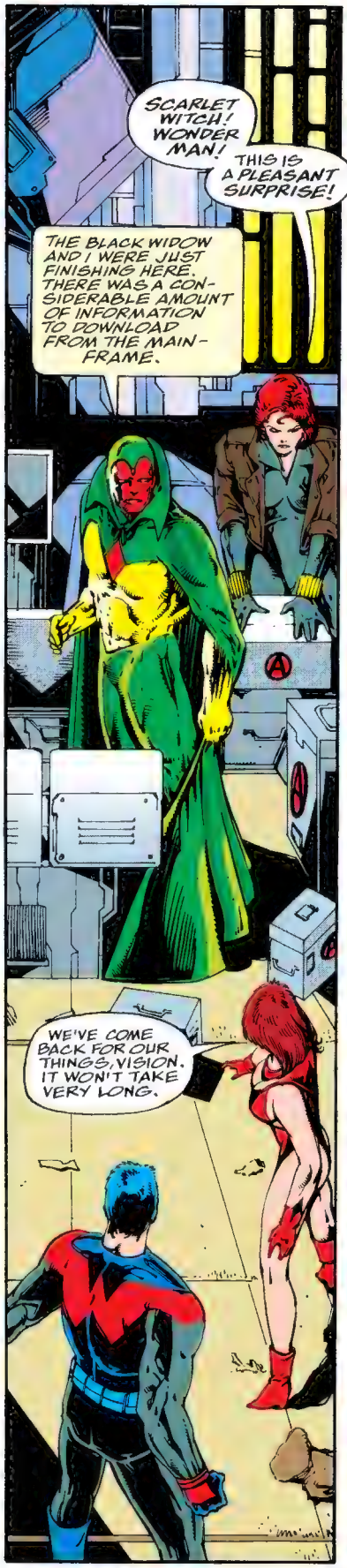
MAJOR LO! YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE!
QUARRY ALPHA HAS REAPPEARED ON THE SCOPE! HE'S MOVING AGAIN... I HAVE A FIX...

BY PAMA! HE'S ABOUT TO INTERSECT WITH QUARRY BETA!
THAT'S JUST WHAT WE'D HOPED FOR!

AT LAST.
MOBILIZE THE GROUND ASSAULT FIRETEAMS. POWER UP THE CANNON. NOW WE MAKE OUR MOVE.

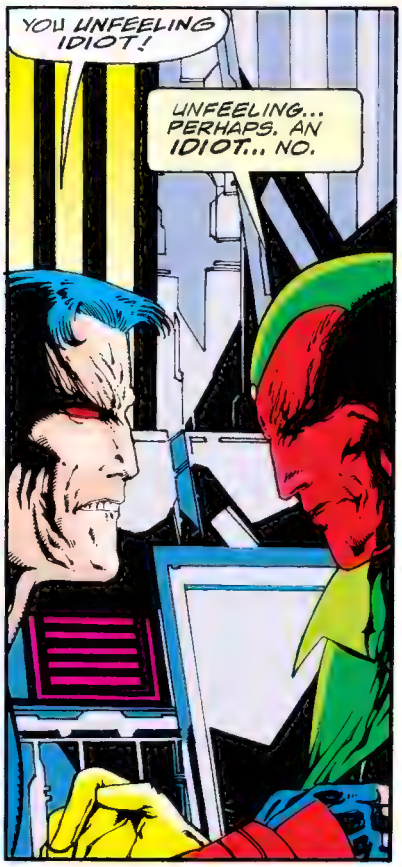

FAR BELOW, AT THE PALOS VERDE COMPOUND...
SMOOTHEST RIDE I EVER TOOK! THIS HEX-SHIP IS SOMETHING ELSE!
WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED ADMIRING THE LEATHER UPHOLSTERY AND THE TEAK-EFFECT DASH, YOU MAY CARE TO LOOK OUT THE WINDOW, WONDER MAN...
...THAT'S A QUINJET DOWN THERE!

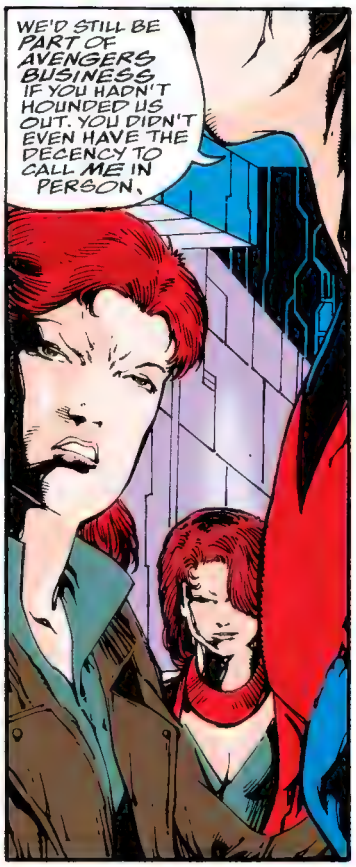

WHAT DO THEY WANT? I THOUGHT WE SAW THE LAST OF THEM BACK IN NEW YORK!


SCARLET WITCH! WONDER MAN!
THIS IS A PLEASANT SURPRISE!
THE BLACK WIDOW AND I WERE JUST FINISHING HERE. THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION TO DOWNLOAD FROM THE MAINFRAME.
WE'VE COME BACK FOR OUR THINGS, VISION. IT WON'T TAKE VERY LONG.

GOT EVERYTHING YOU CAME FOR? WHY AM I SUDDENLY THINKING OF LOOTERS STRIPPING CORPSES ON THE BATTLE-FIELD?

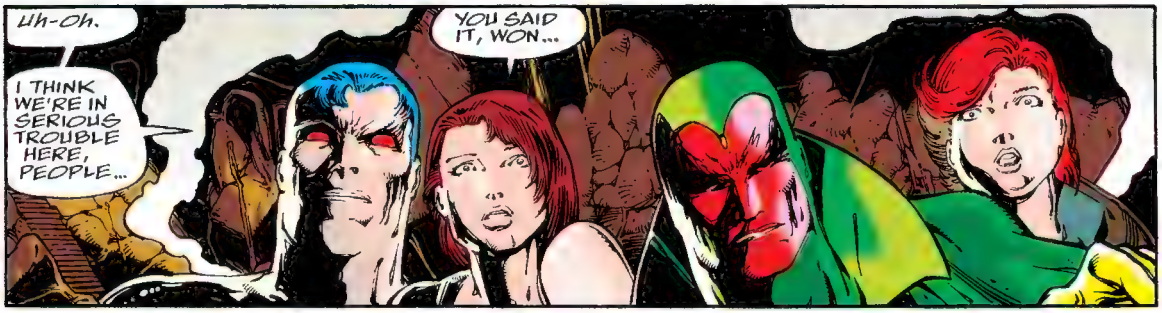
I HAVE NO IDEA, WONDER MAN.
IT IS VITAL WE PROTECT THE INFORMATION INTEGRITY OF THE AVENGERS. THE WEST COAST FACILITY IS NOW VERY VULNERABLE.
I TRUST YOU WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH AVENGERS BUSINESS.

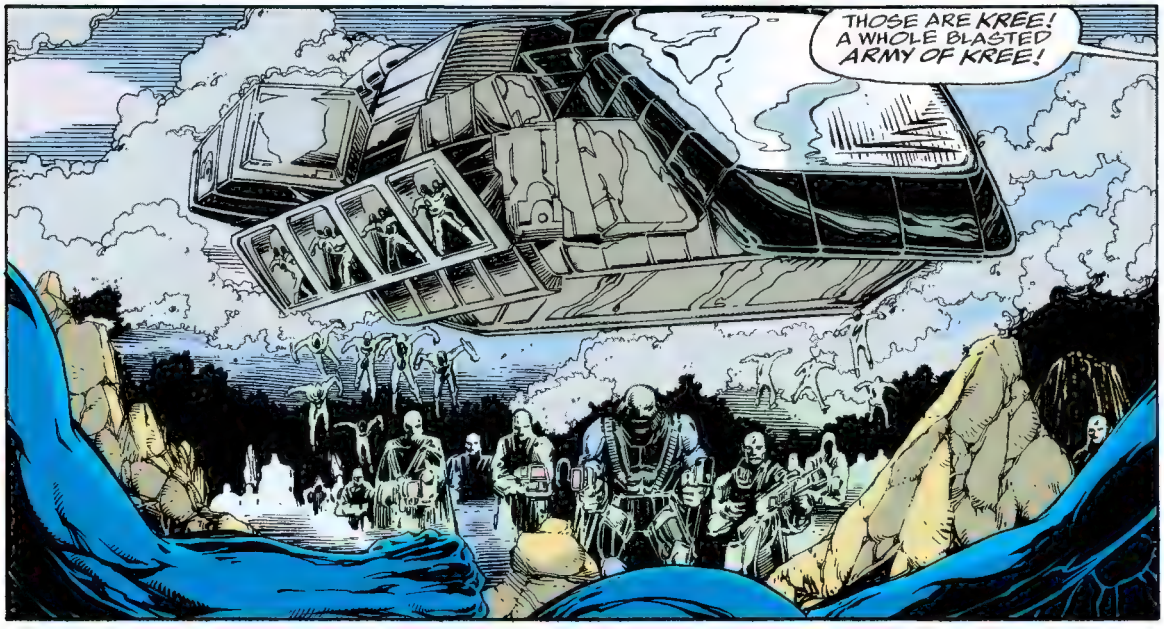

YOU UNFEELING IDIOT!
UNFEELING... PERHAPS. AN IDIOT... NO.

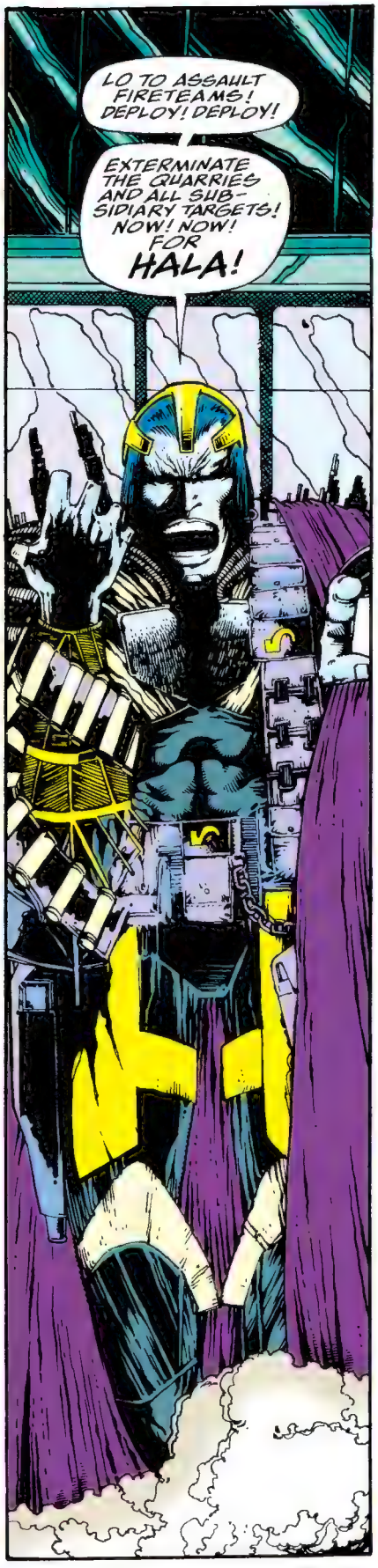

WE'D STILL BE PART OF AVENGERS BUSINESS IF YOU HADN'T HOUNDED US OUT. YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THE DECENCY TO CALL ME IN PERSON.

VRA-FOOM

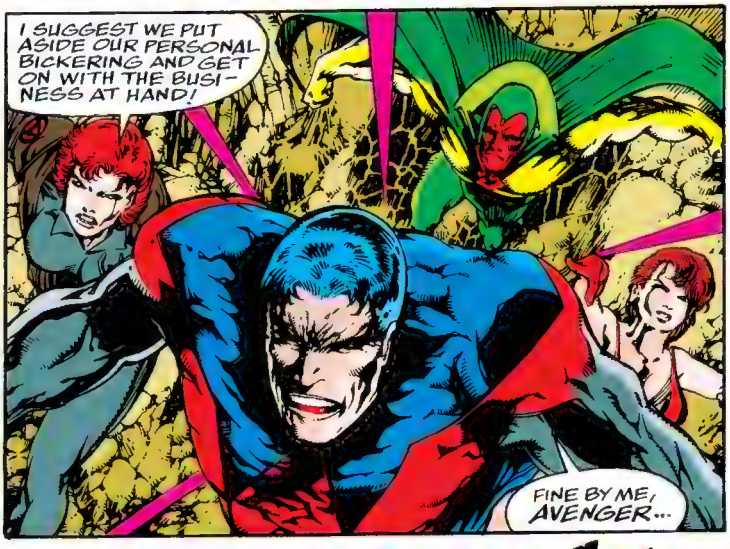
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
STAY CLOSE, WANDA! WILDFIRE LASER-SHOT IS CUTTING THE PLACE TO PIECES!
STAY TOGETHER! STAY TOGETHER!
UHOW
VARA
WWORP

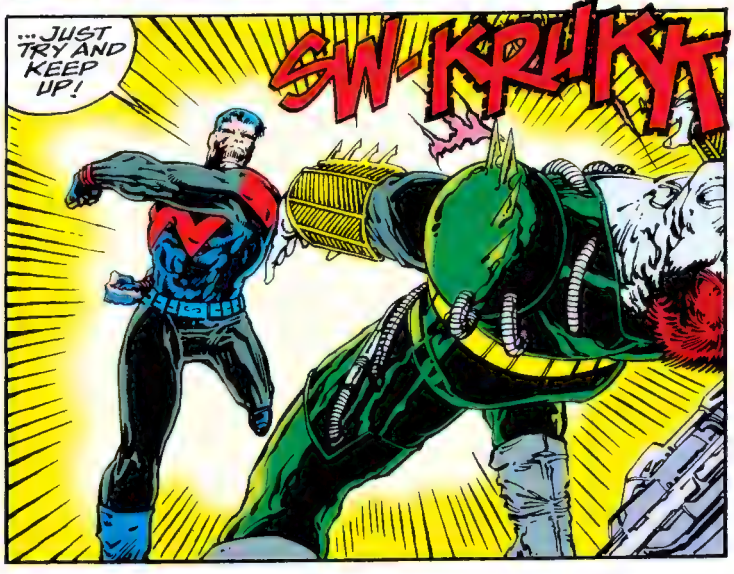

Uh-Oh.
I THINK WE'RE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE HERE, PEOPLE...
YOU SAID IT, WON...

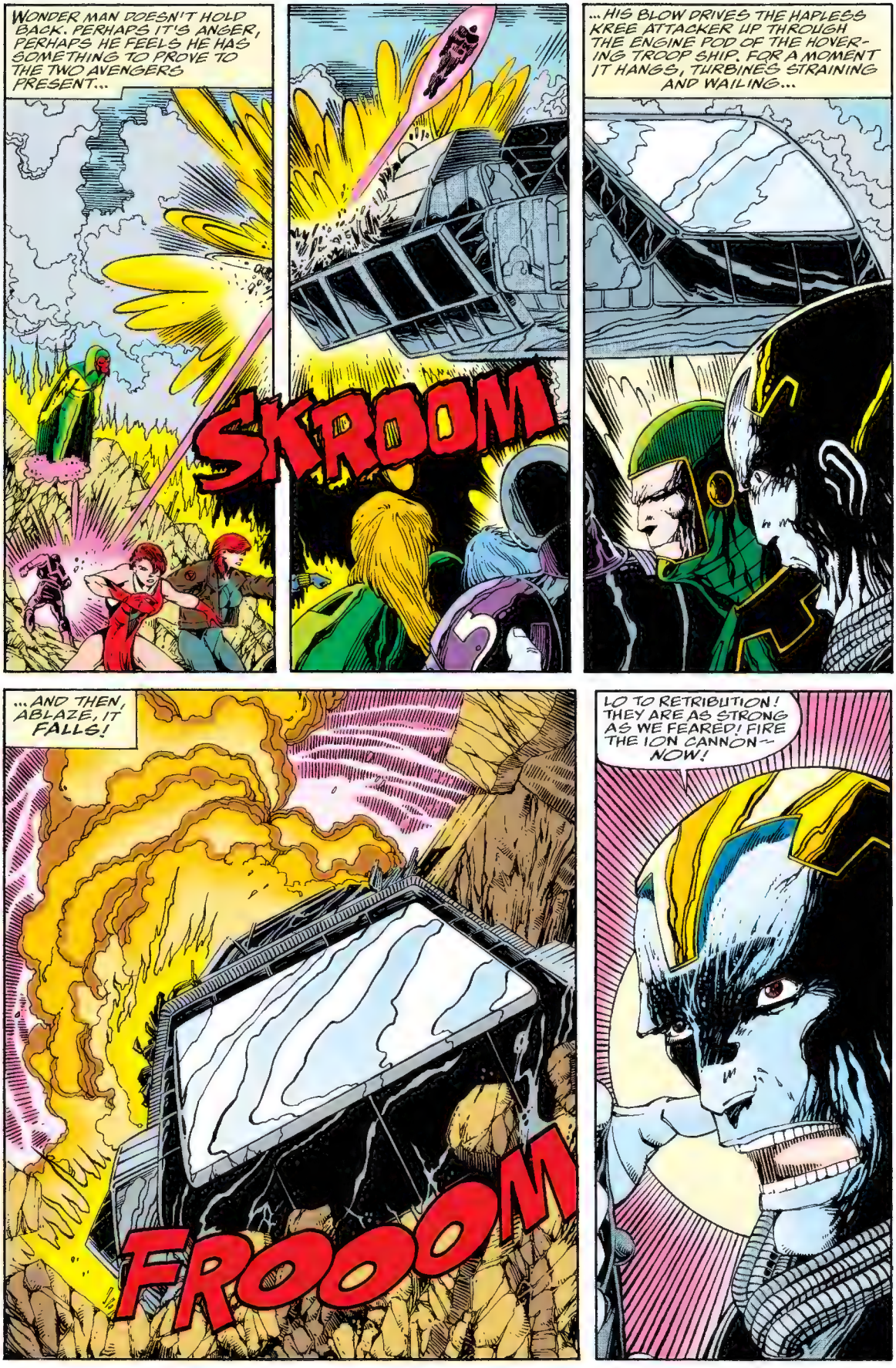

THOSE ARE KREE! A WHOLE BLASTED ARMY OF KREE!

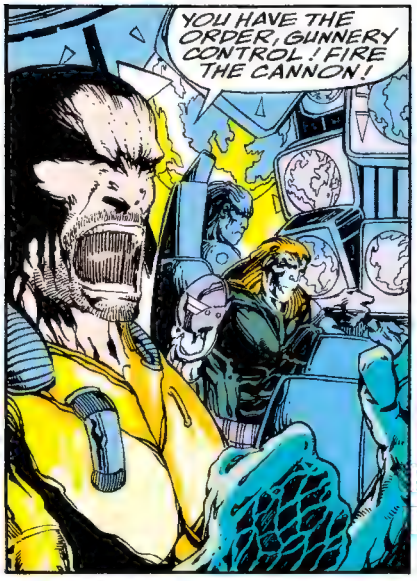

LO TO ASSAULT FIRETEAMS! DEPLOY! DEPLOY!
EXTERMINATE THE QUARRIES AND ALL SUB-SIDIARY TARGETS! NOW! NOW! FOR HALA!

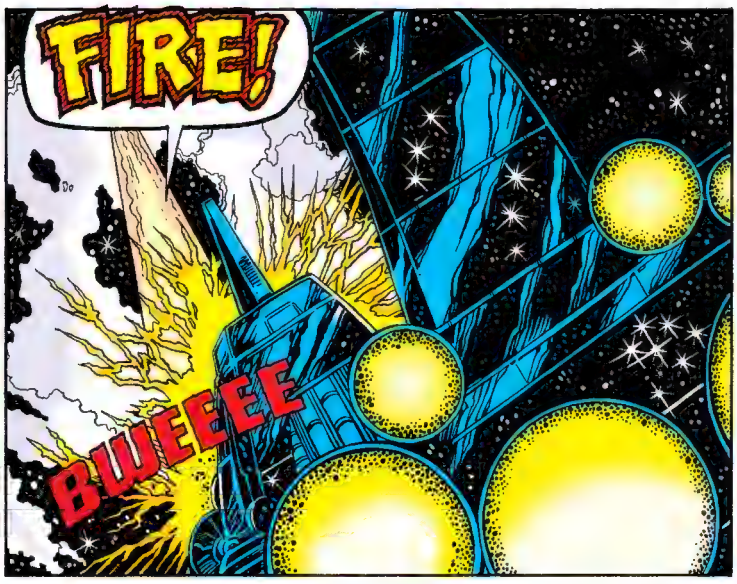
YOU HEARD THE MAJOR, DOG-SOLDIERS! FOR THE MEMORY OF ALL WE CHERISHED...!
BURN THESE HUMAN MONSTERS!!
VRA-CHOOM!

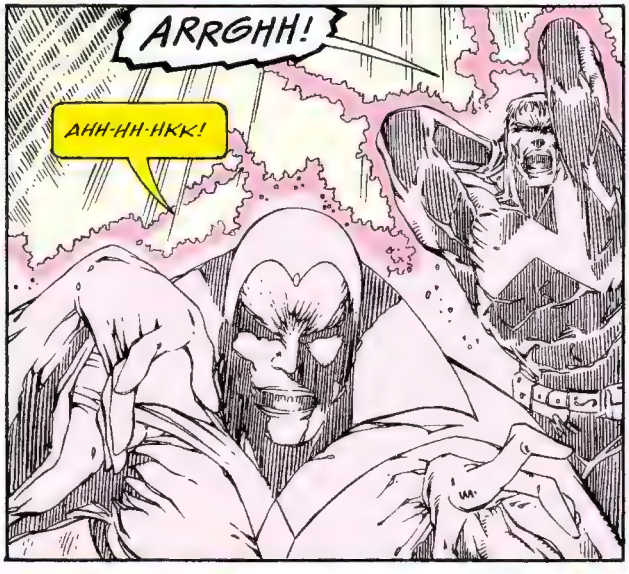

I SUGGEST WE PUT ASIDE OUR PERSONAL BICKERING AND GET ON WITH THE BUSI-NESS AT HAND!
FINE BY ME, AVENGER...


...JUST TRY AND KEEP UP!
SW-KRUKYT

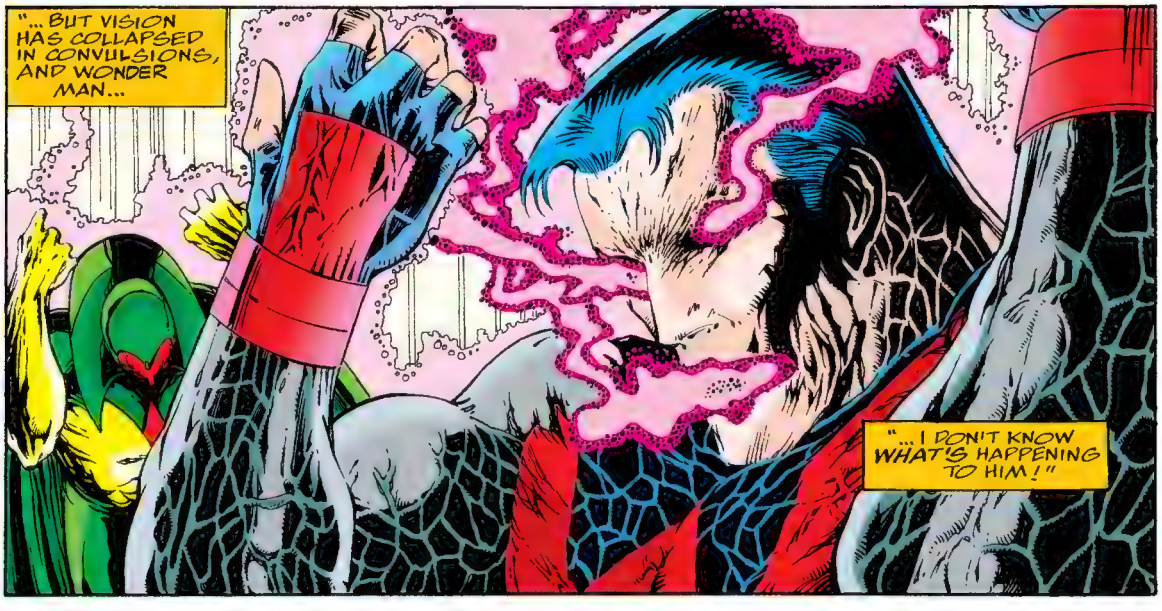

WONDER MAN DOESN'T HOLD BACK. PERHAPS IT'S ANGER, PERHAPS HE FEELS HE HAS SOMETHING TO PROVE TO THE TWO AVENGERS PRESENT...
SKROOM!
...HIS BLOW DRIVES THE HAPLESS KREE ATTACKER UP THROUGH THE ENGINE POD OF THE HOVERING TROOP SHIP. FOR A MOMENT IT HANGS, TURBINES STRAINING AND WAILING...
...AND THEN, ABLAZE, IT FALLS!
FROOOM
LO TO RETRIBUTION! THEY ARE AS STRONG AS WE FEARED! FIRE THE ION CANNON— NOW!

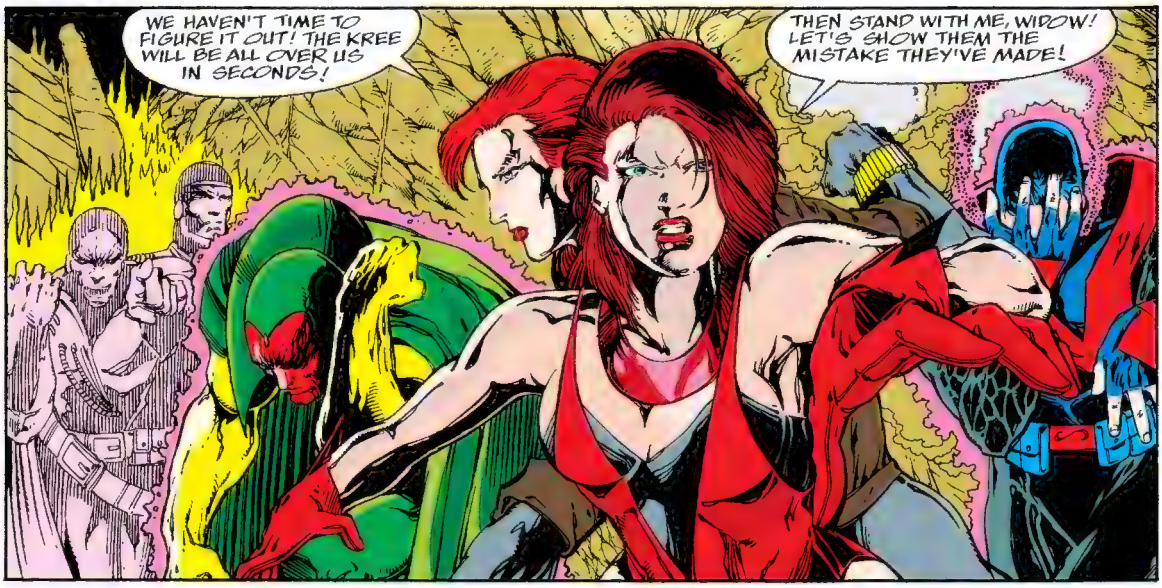

YOU HAVE THE ORDER, GUNNERY CONTROL! FIRE THE CANNON!

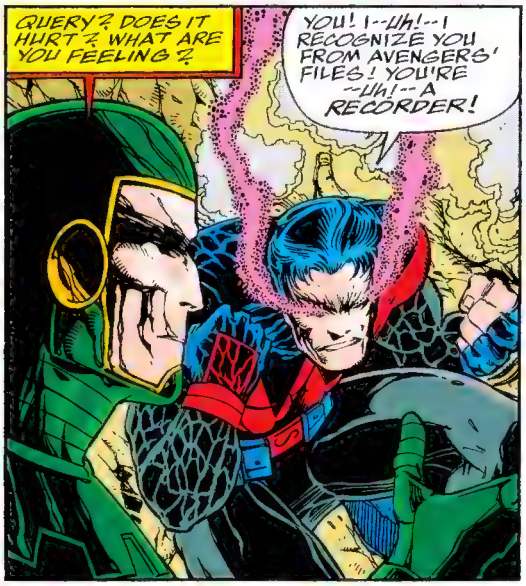

FIRE!
BWEEEE

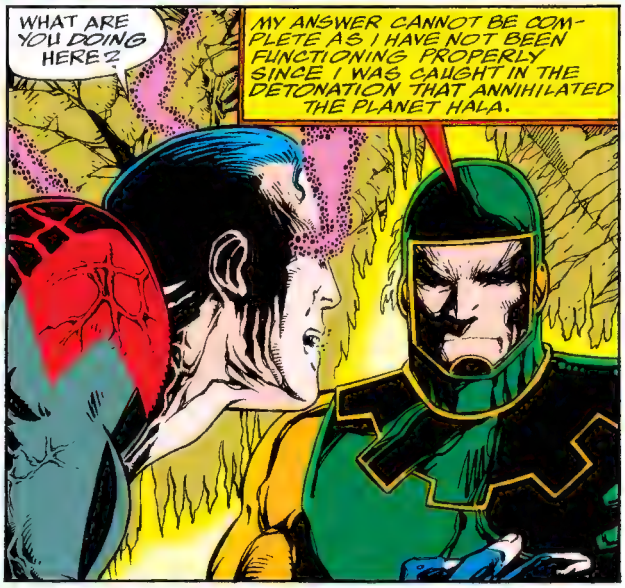

ARRGHH!
AHH-HH-HKK!

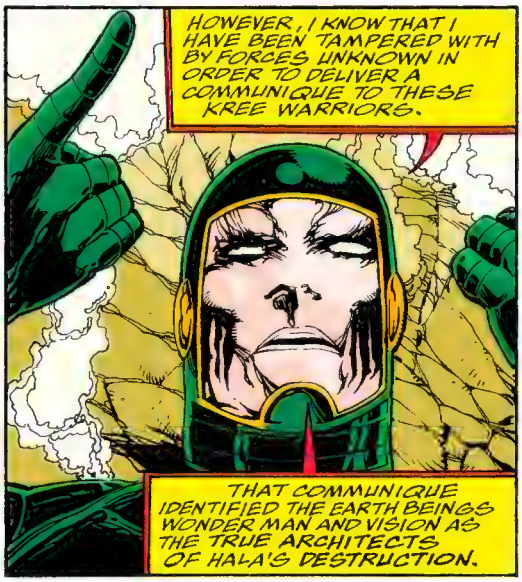
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WE'RE BEING BOMBARDED BY SOME KIND OF ENERGY STREAM FROM ABOVE! IT DOESN'T SEEM TO AFFECT YOU OR ME, WIDOW...

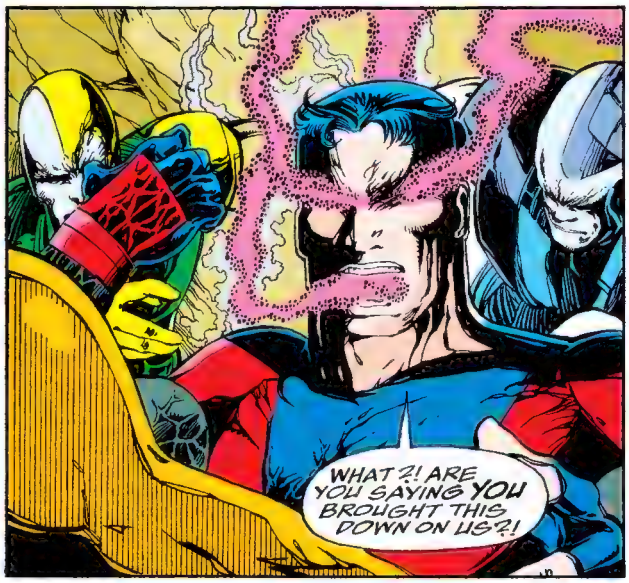

"... BUT VISION HAS COLLAPSED IN CONVULSIONS, AND WONDER MAN...
"... I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM!"

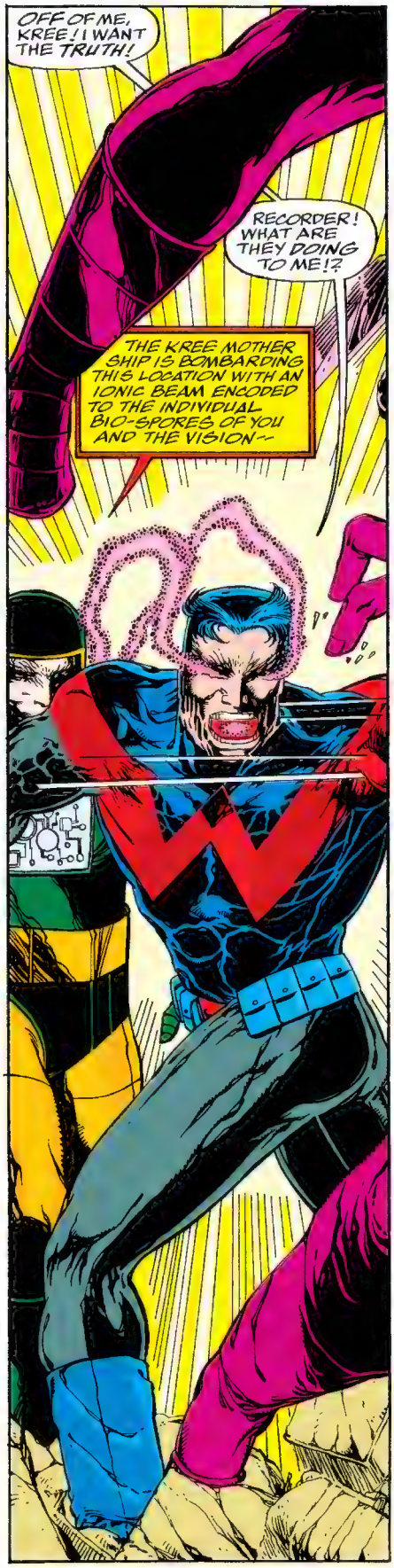

WE HAVEN'T TIME TO FIGURE IT OUT! THE KREE WILL BE ALL OVER US IN SECONDS!
THEN STAND WITH ME, WIDOW! LET'S SHOW THEM THE MISTAKE THEY'VE MADE!

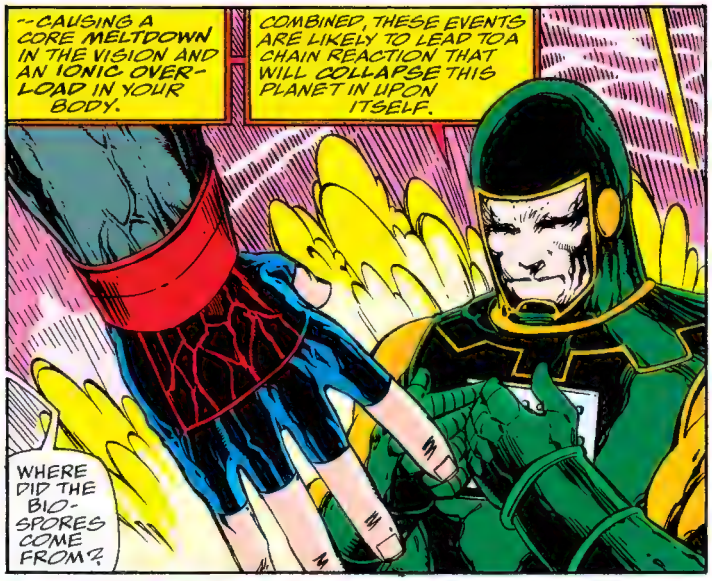

QUERY? DOES IT HURT? WHAT ARE YOU FEELING?
YOU! I--UH!--I RECOGNIZE YOU FROM AVENGERS' FILES! YOU'RE --UH!-- A RECORDER!

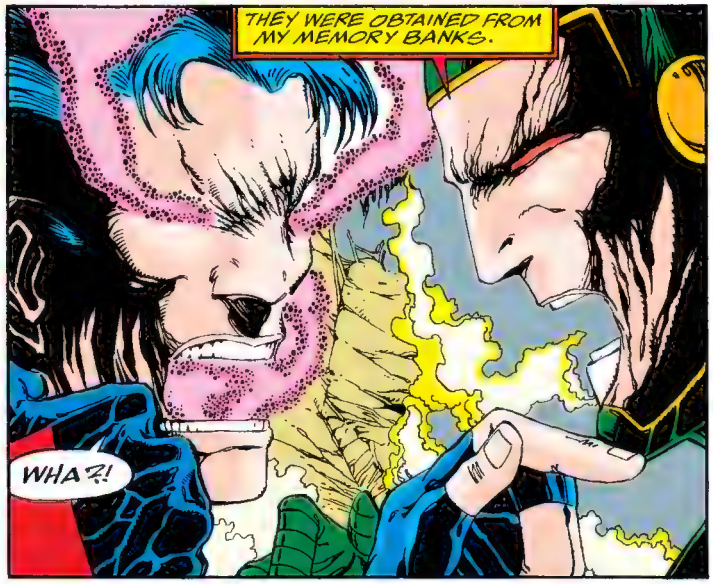

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
MY ANSWER CANNOT BE COMPLETE AS I HAVE NOT BEEN FUNCTIONING PROPERLY SINCE I WAS CAUGHT IN THE DETONATION THAT ANNIHILATED THE PLANET HALA.

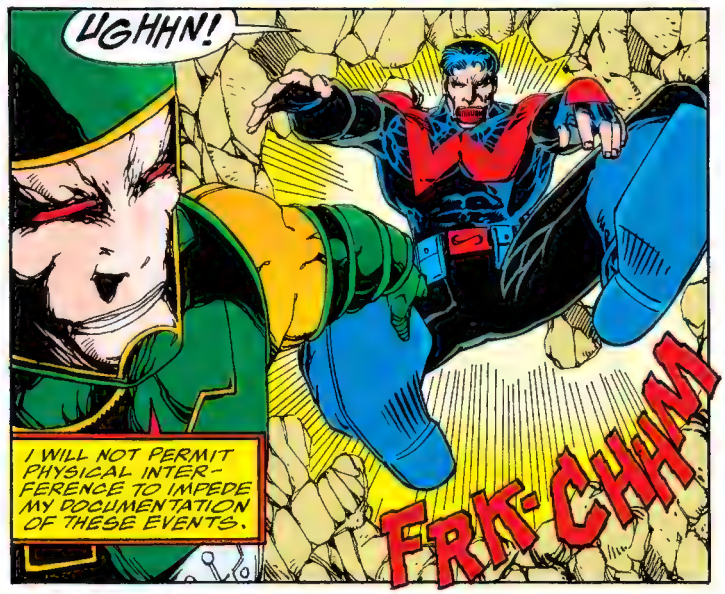

HOWEVER, I KNOW THAT I HAVE BEEN TAMPERED WITH BY FORCES UNKNOWN IN ORDER TO DELIVER A COMMUNIQUE TO THESE KREE WARRIORS.
THAT COMMUNIQUE IDENTIFIED THE EARTH BEINGS WONDER MAN AND VISION AS THE TRUE ARCHITECTS OF HALA'S DESTRUCTION.

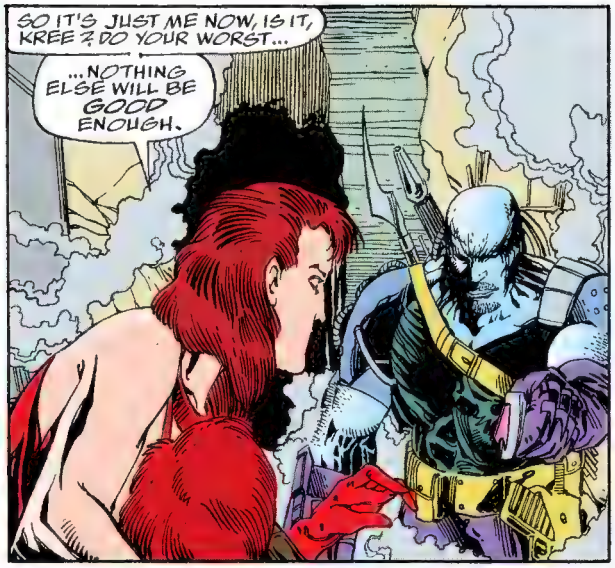

WHAT?! ARE YOU SAYING YOU BROUGHT THIS DOWN ON US?!


OFF OF ME, KREE! I WANT THE TRUTH!
RECORDER! WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO ME!?
THE KREE MOTHER SHIP IS BOMBARDING THIS LOCATION WITH AN IONIC BEAM ENCODED TO THE INDIVIDUAL BIO-SPORES OF YOU AND THE VISION--


--CAUSING A CORE MELTDOWN IN THE VISION AND AN IONIC OVER-LOAD IN YOUR BODY.
COMBINED, THESE EVENTS ARE LIKELY TO LEAD TO A CHAIN REACTION THAT WILL COLLAPSE THIS PLANET IN UPON ITSELF.
WHERE DID THE BIO-SPORES COME FROM?

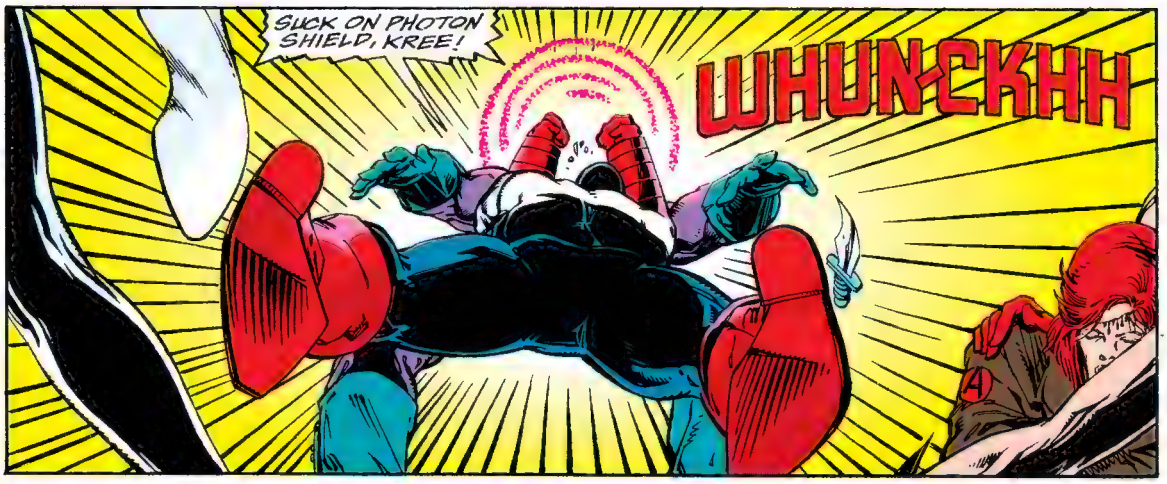

THEY WERE OBTAINED FROM MY MEMORY BANKS.
WHA?!

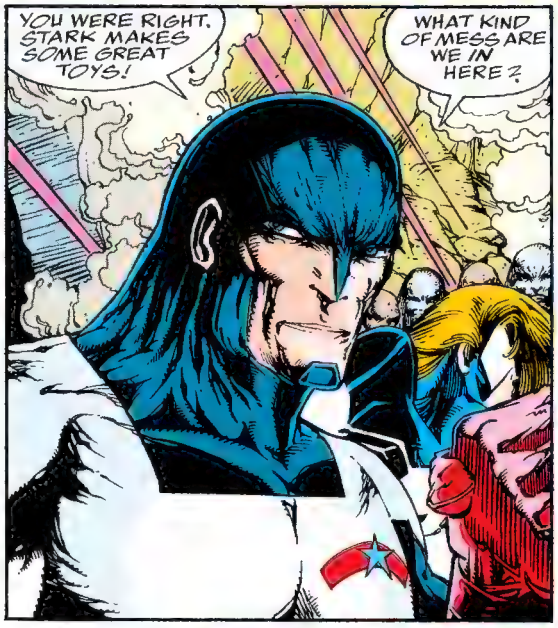

UGHHN!
I WILL NOT PERMIT PHYSICAL INTER-FERENCE TO IMPEDE MY DOCUMENTATION OF THESE EVENTS.
FRK-CHHM



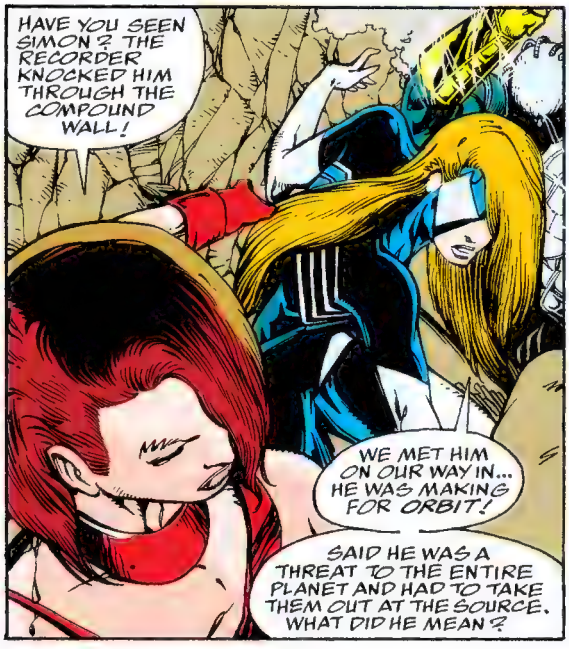
NEED A HAND HERE, SCARLET WITCH?

SPIDER-WOMAN AND I WILL BE GLAD TO OBLIGE.

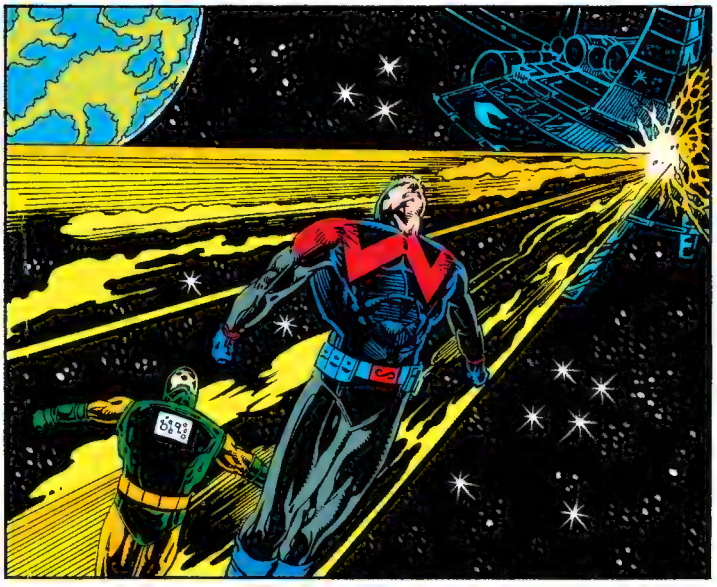

SUCK ON PHOTON SHIELD, KREE!
WHUN-CKHH


YOU WERE RIGHT. STARK MAKES SOME GREAT TOYS!
WHAT KIND OF MESS ARE WE IN HERE?

LOOKS LIKE KREE BATTLETROOPS, AGENT, COMING UP AS FAST AS I CAN PSIONICALLY WEB THEM!

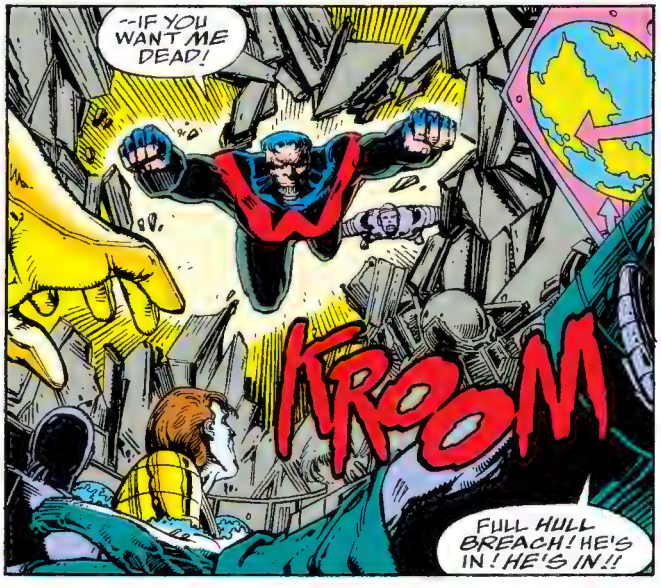

HAVE YOU SEEN SIMON? THE RECORDER KNOCKED HIM THROUGH THE COMPOUND WALL!
WE MET HIM ON OUR WAY IN... HE WAS MAKING FOR ORBIT!
SAID HE WAS A THREAT TO THE ENTIRE PLANET AND HAD TO TAKE THEM OUT AT THE SOURCE. WHAT DID HE MEAN?

WHO CARES? WONDER MAN CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF!
RIGHT NOW WE'VE GOT MORE THAN ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH!

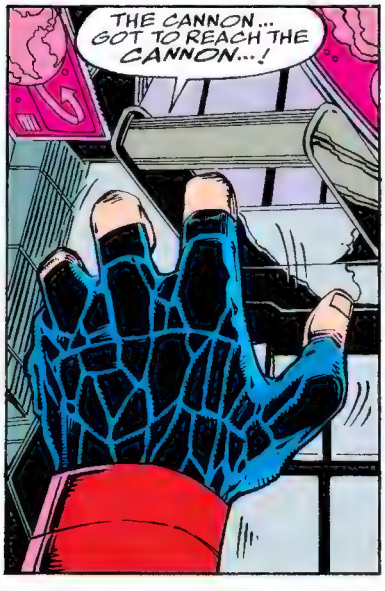


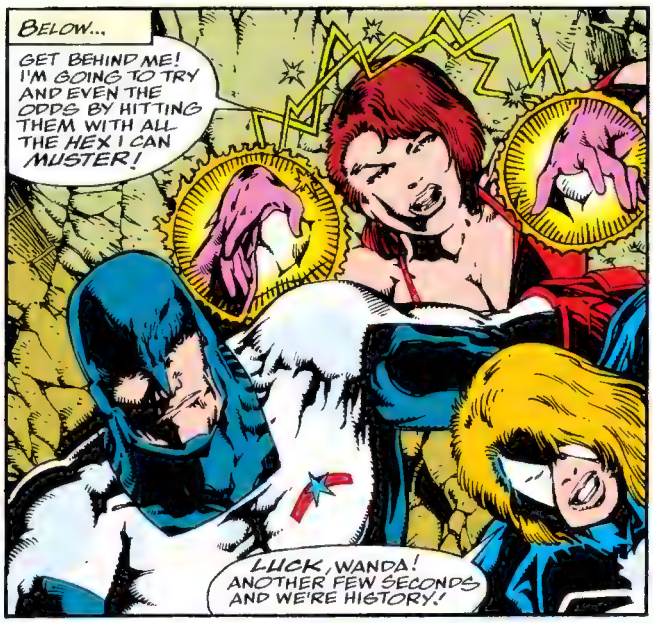
THE QUARRY IS APPROACHING THE SHIP! OPEN FIRE! BLAST HIM FROM THE SKIES!

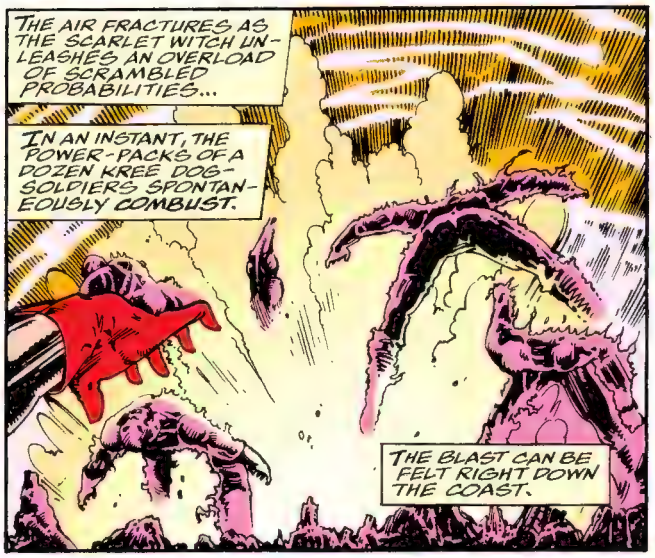
YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT, KREE--

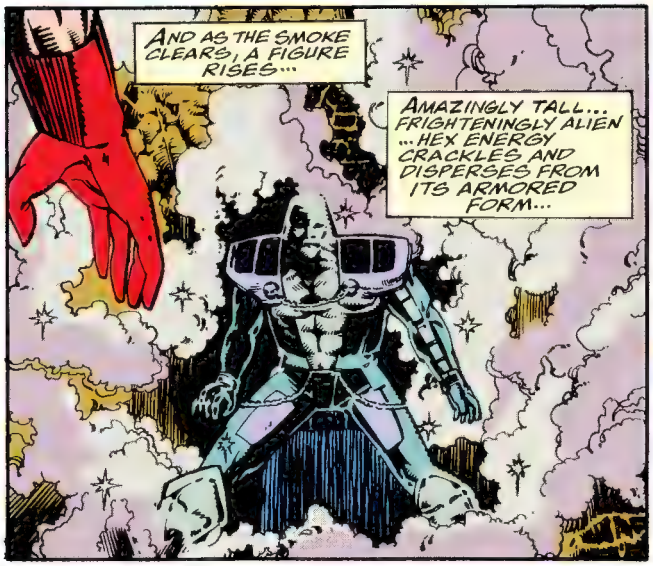

--IF YOU WANT ME DEAD!
KROOM
FULL HULL BREACH! HE'S IN! HE'S IN!!

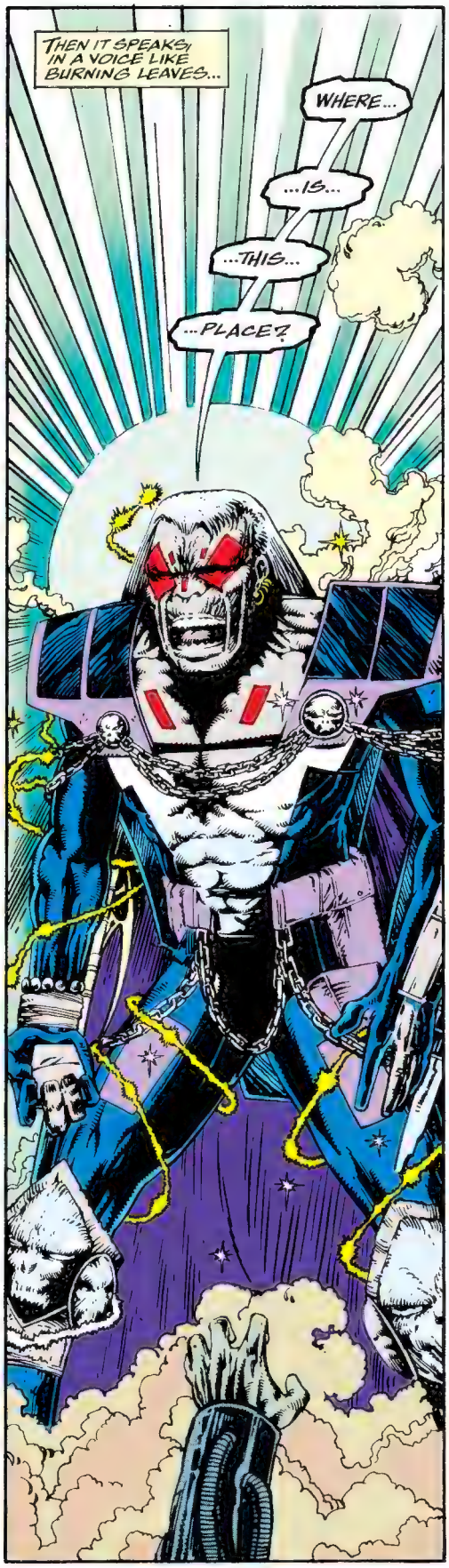
OUT OF MY WAY, YOU MANIAC FILTH!

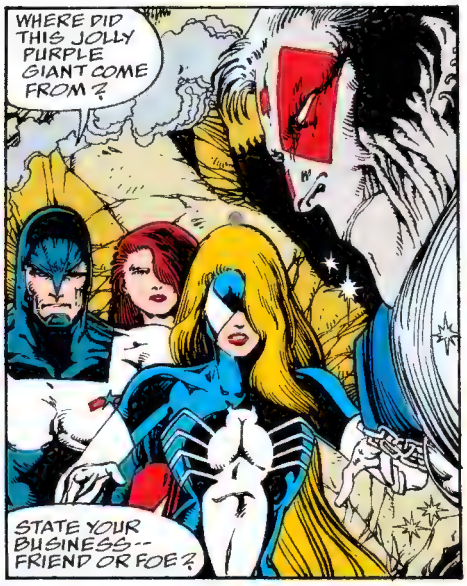

THE CANNON... GOT TO REACH THE CANNON...!

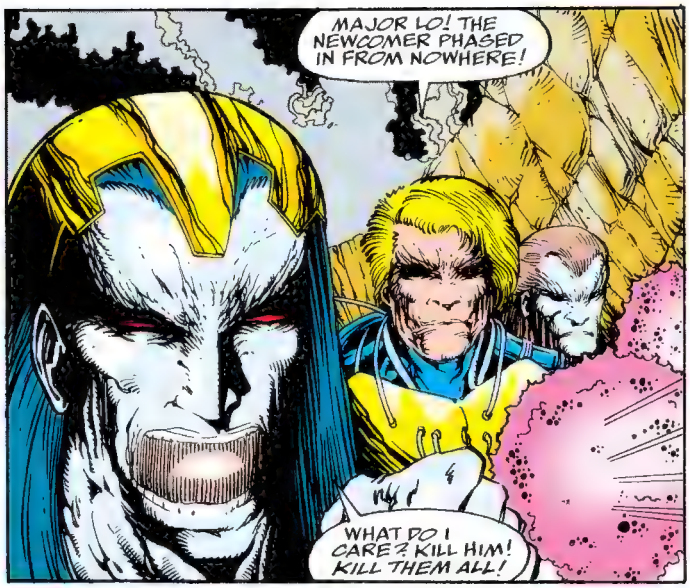

BELOW...
GET BEHIND ME! I'M GOING TO TRY AND EVEN THE ODDS BY HITTING THEM WITH ALL THE HEX I CAN MUSTER!
LUCK, WANDA! ANOTHER FEW SECONDS AND WE'RE HISTORY!

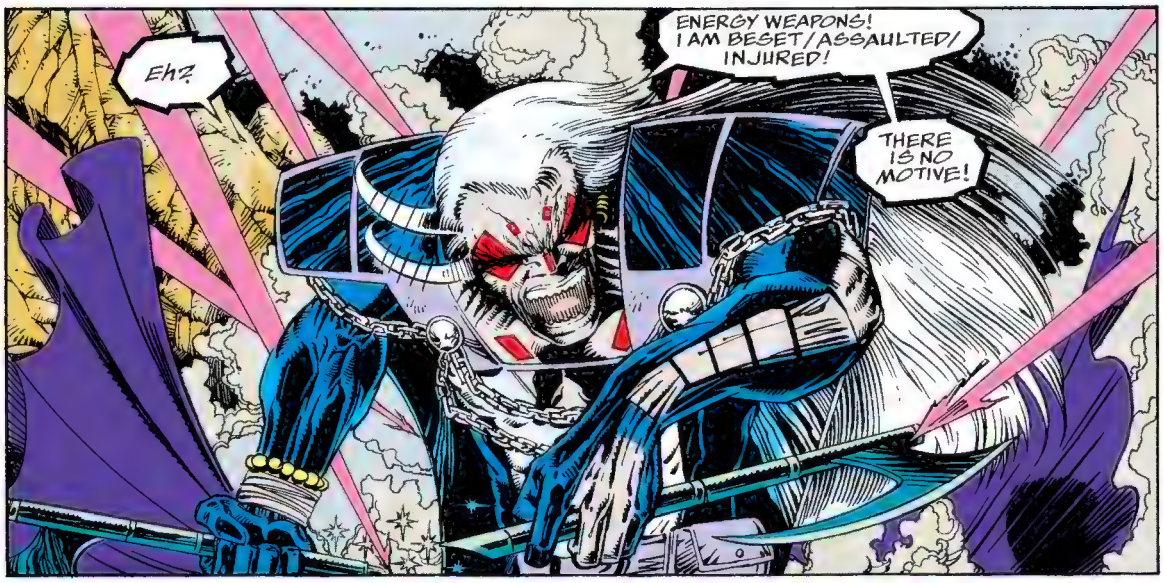

THE AIR FRACTURES AS THE SCARLET WITCH UNLEASHES AN OVERLOAD OF SCRAMBLED PROBABILITIES...
IN AN INSTANT, THE POWER-PACKS OF A DOZEN KREE DOG-SOLDIERS SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUST.
THE BLAST CAN BE FELT RIGHT DOWN THE COAST.

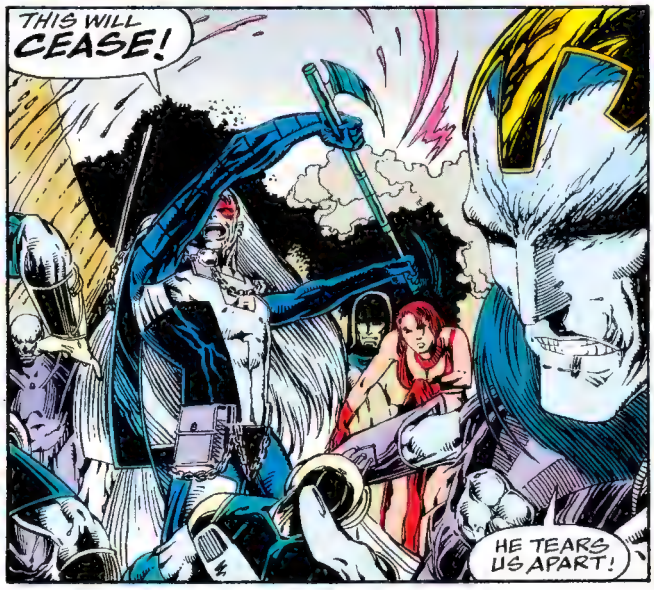

AND AS THE SMOKE CLEARS, A FIGURE RISES...
AMAZINGLY TALL... FRIGHTENINGLY ALIEN ...HEX ENERGY CRACKLES AND DISPERSES FROM ITS ARMORED FORM...


THEN IT SPEAKS, IN A VOICE LIKE BURNING LEAVES...
WHERE...
...IS...
...THIS...
...PLACE?


WHERE DID THIS JOLLY PURPLE GIANT COME FROM?
STATE YOUR BUSINESS-- FRIEND OR FOE?

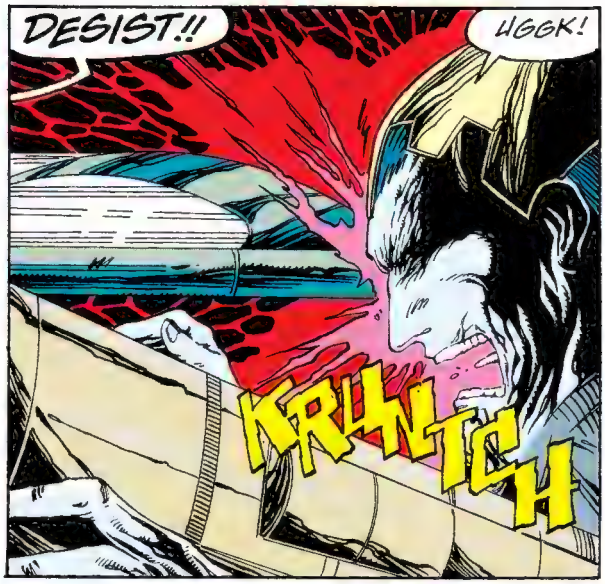

MAJOR LO! THE NEWCOMER PHASED IN FROM NOWHERE!
WHAT DO I CARE? KILL HIM! KILL THEM ALL!

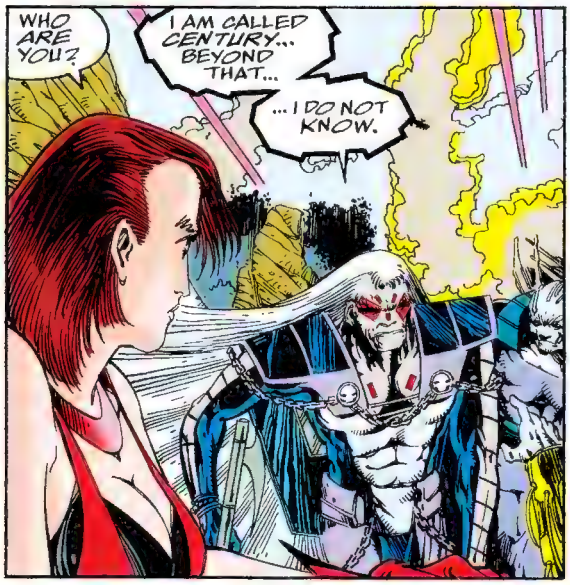

EH?
ENERGY WEAPONS! I AM BESET/ASSAULTED/ INJURED!
THERE IS NO MOTIVE!

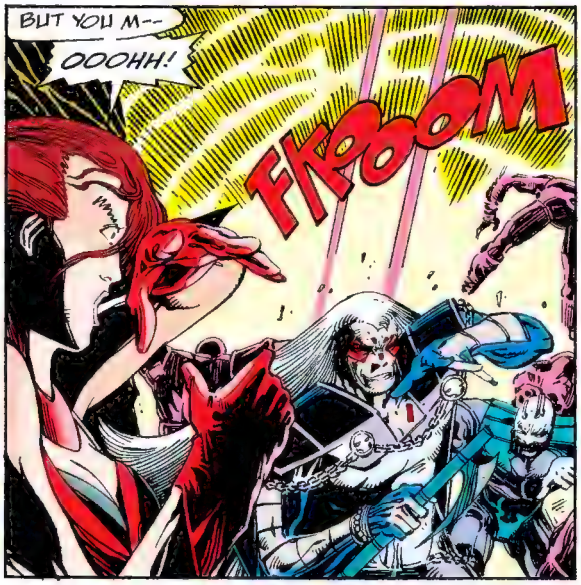

THIS WILL CEASE!
HE TEARS US APART!

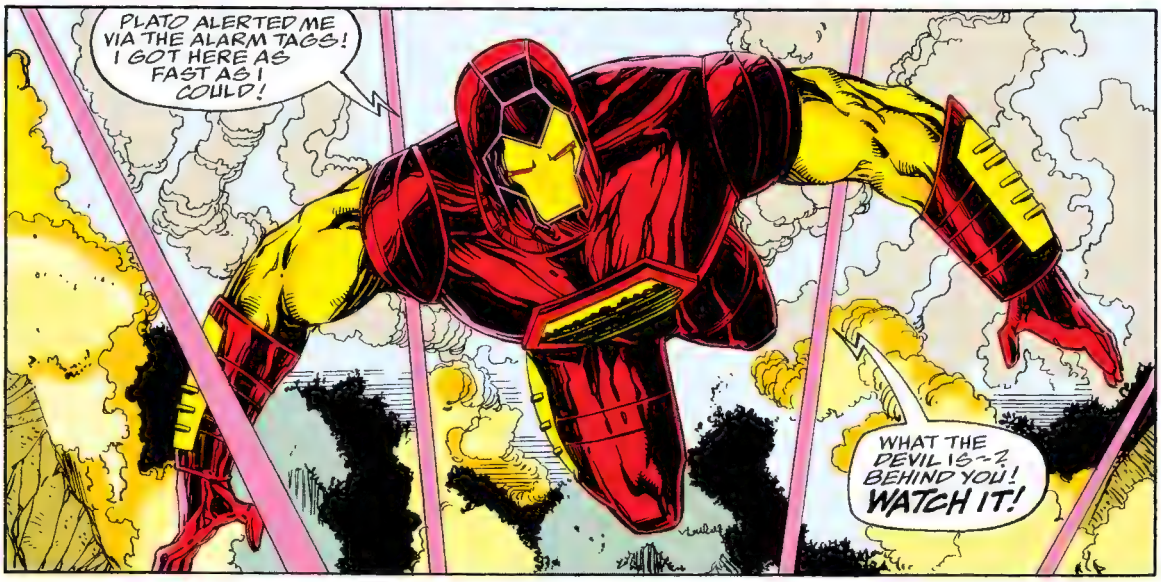
THE FEMALE IN RED... SHE BROUGHT HIM HERE... IF I CAN...

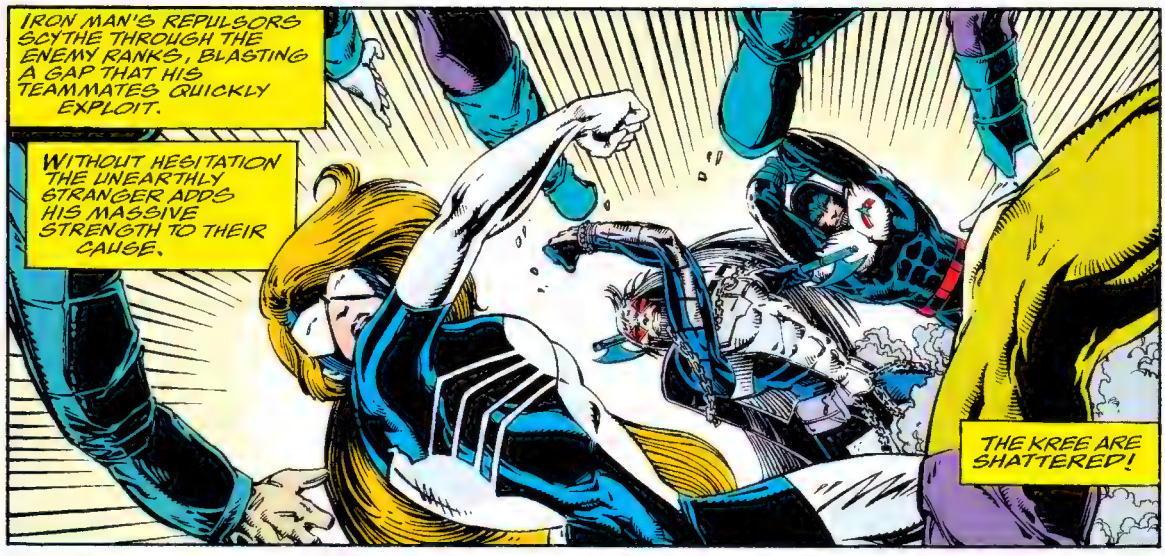
YOU! WARRIOR!

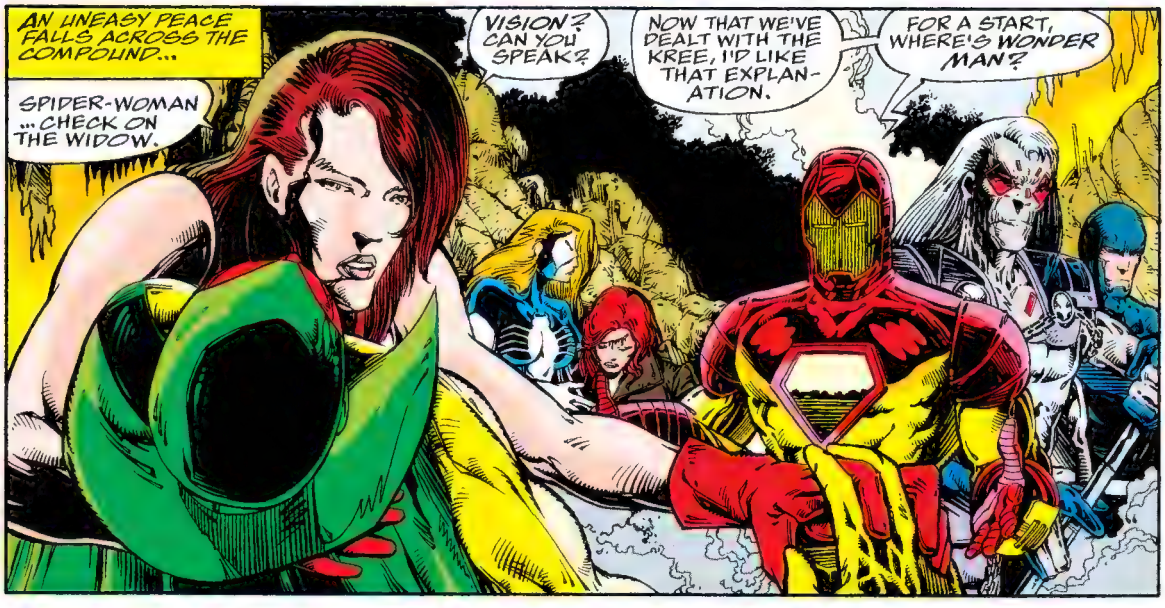

DESIST!!
UGGK!
KRUNTCH

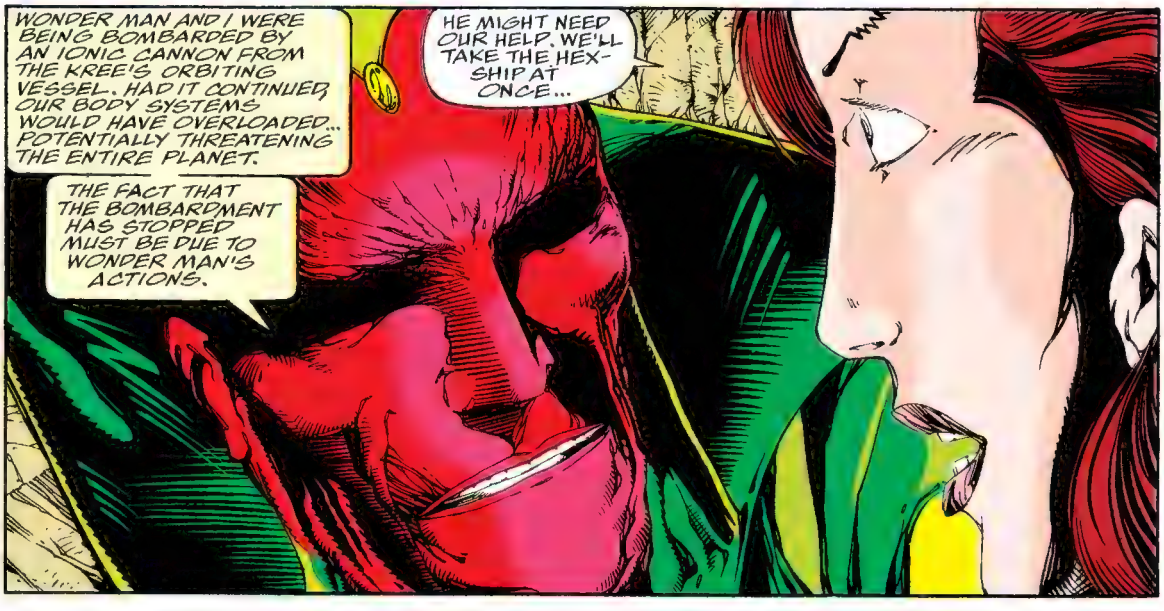

WHO ARE YOU?
I AM CALLED CENTURY... BEYOND THAT...
...I DO NOT KNOW.

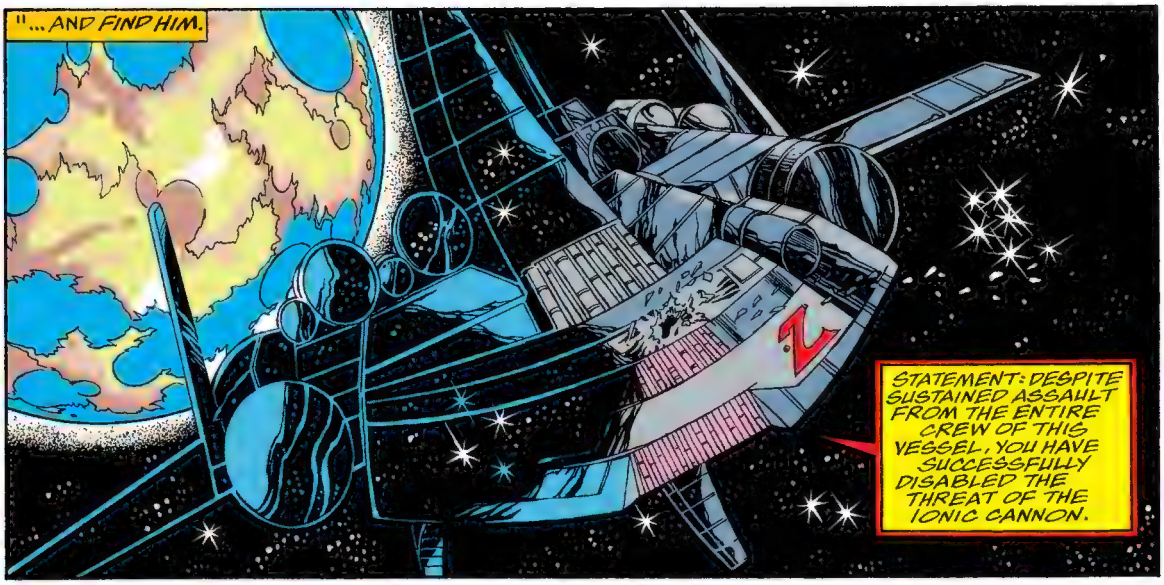

BUT YOU M--
OOOHH!
FROOOM

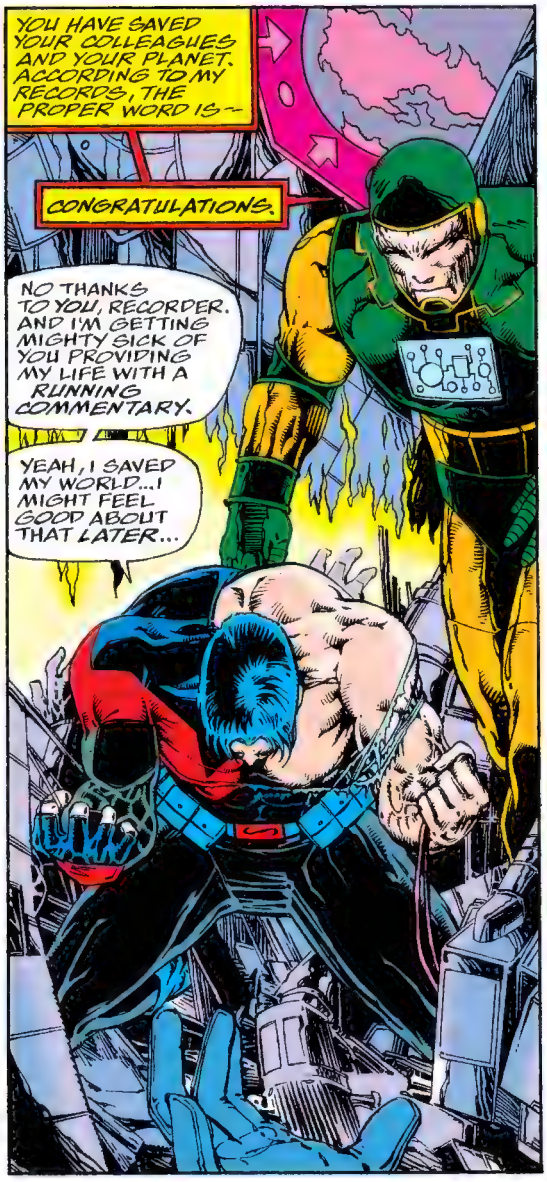

PLATO ALERTED ME VIA THE ALARM TAGS! I GOT HERE AS FAST AS I COULD!
WHAT THE DEVIL IS--? BEHIND YOU! WATCH IT!

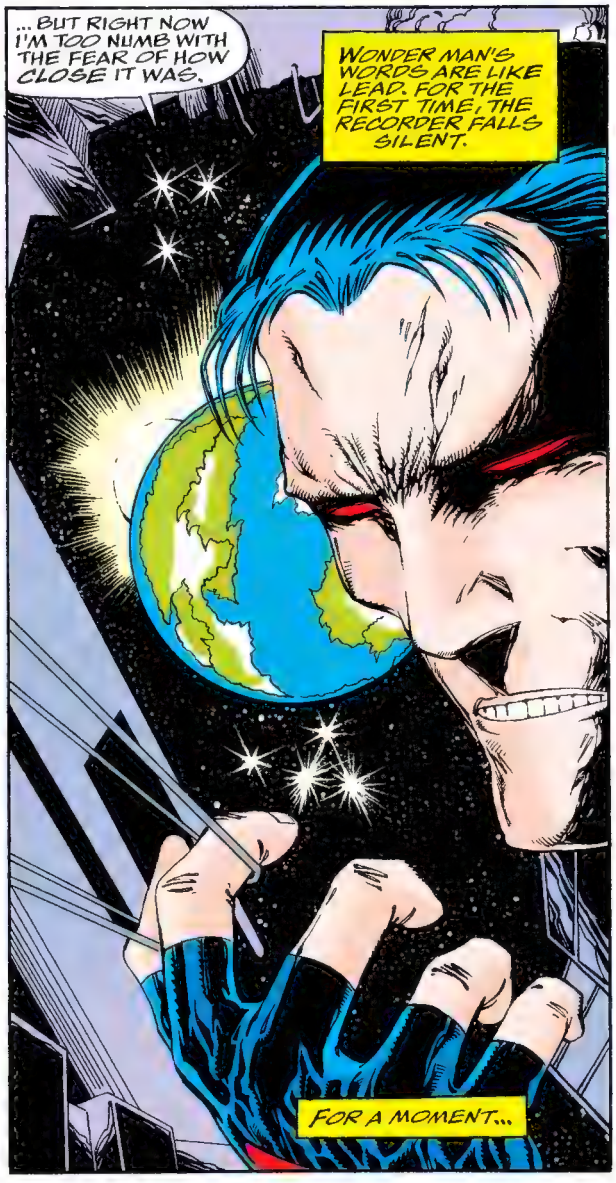

IRON MAN'S REPULSORS SCYTHE THROUGH THE ENEMY RANKS, BLASTING A GAP THAT HIS TEAMMATES QUICKLY EXPLOIT.
WITHOUT HESITATION THE UNEARTHLY STRANGER ADDS HIS MASSIVE STRENGTH TO THEIR CAUSE.
THE KREE ARE SHATTERED!

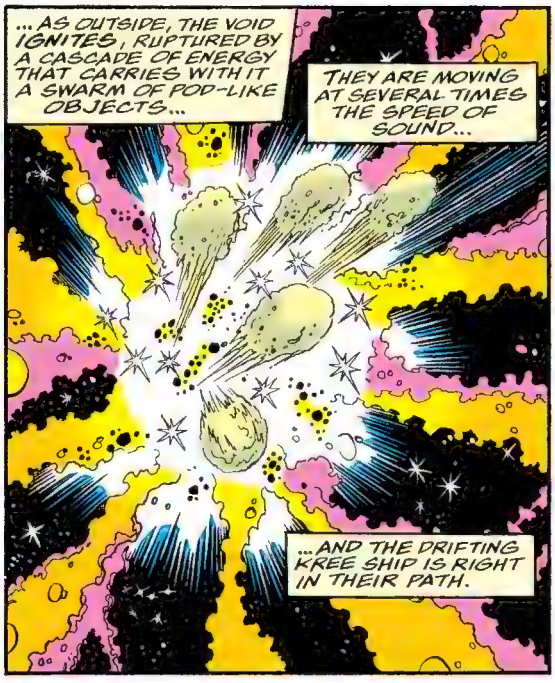

AN UNEASY PEACE FALLS ACROSS THE COMPOUND...
SPIDER-WOMAN ...CHECK ON THE WIDOW.
VISION? CAN YOU SPEAK?
NOW THAT WE'VE DEALT WITH THE KREE, I'D LIKE THAT EXPLANATION.
FOR A START, WHERE'S WONDER MAN?


WONDER MAN AND I WERE BEING BOMBARDED BY AN IONIC CANNON FROM THE KREE'S ORBITING VESSEL. HAD IT CONTINUED, OUR BODY SYSTEMS WOULD HAVE OVERLOADED... POTENTIALLY THREATENING THE ENTIRE PLANET.
THE FACT THAT THE BOMBARDMENT HAS STOPPED MUST BE DUE TO WONDER MAN'S ACTIONS.
HE MIGHT NEED OUR HELP. WE'LL TAKE THE HEX-SHIP AT ONCE...

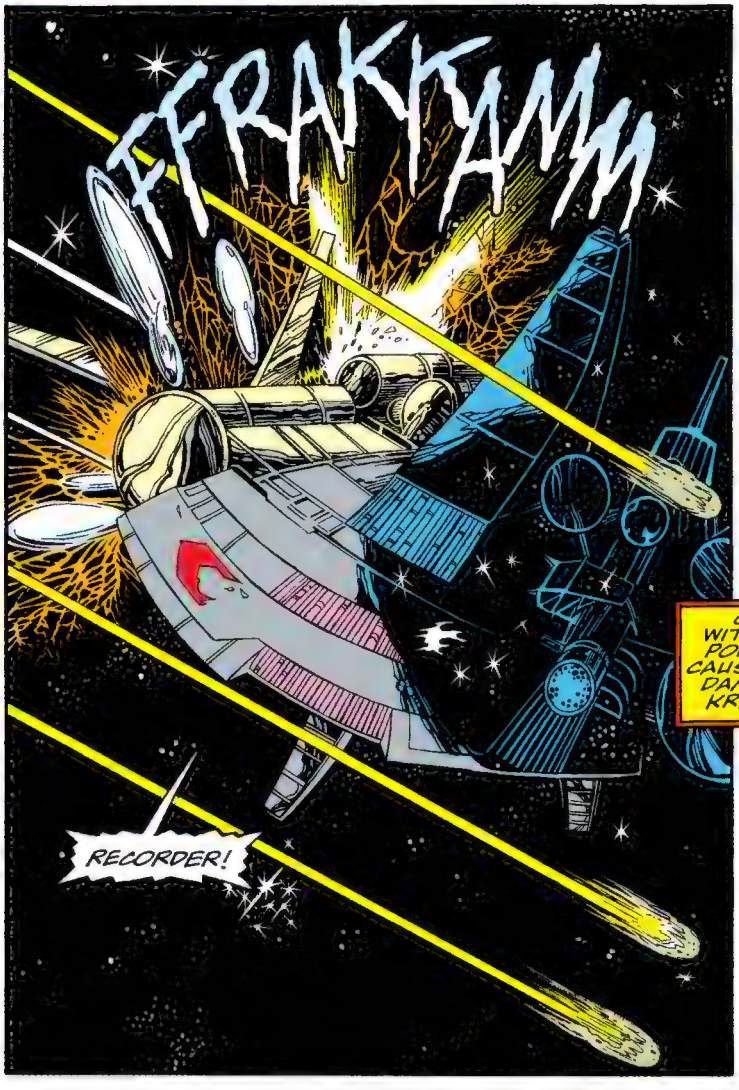

"... AND FIND HIM.
STATEMENT: DESPITE SUSTAINED ASSAULT FROM THE ENTIRE CREW OF THIS VESSEL, YOU HAVE SUCCESSFULLY DISABLED THE THREAT OF THE IONIC CANNON.


YOU HAVE SAVED YOUR COLLEAGUES AND YOUR PLANET. ACCORDING TO MY RECORDS, THE PROPER WORD IS--
CONGRATULATIONS.
NO THANKS TO YOU, RECORDER. AND I'M GETTING MIGHTY SICK OF YOU PROVIDING MY LIFE WITH A RUNNING COMMENTARY.
YEAH, I SAVED MY WORLD...I MIGHT FEEL GOOD ABOUT THAT LATER...

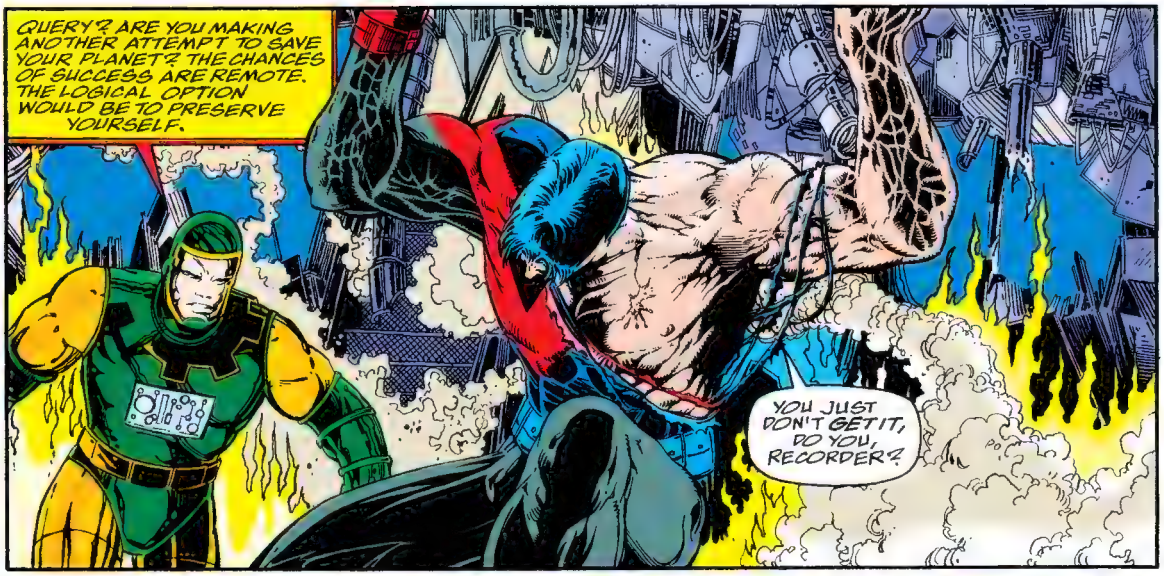

... BUT RIGHT NOW I'M TOO NUMB WITH THE FEAR OF HOW CLOSE IT WAS.
WONDER MAN'S WORDS ARE LIKE LEAD. FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE RECORDER FALLS SILENT.
FOR A MOMENT...

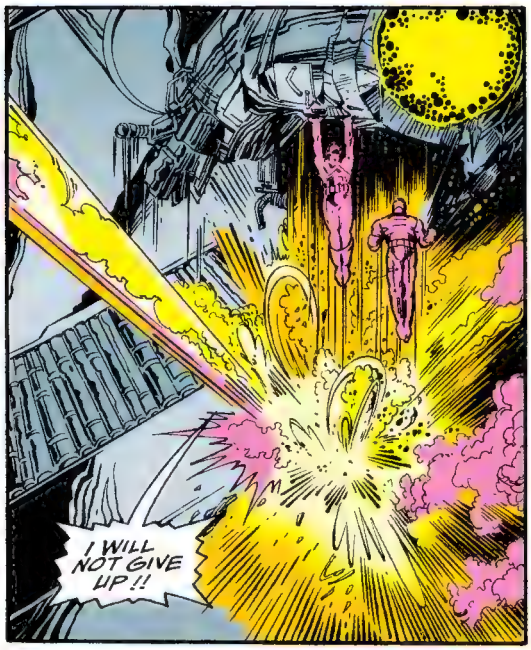

...AS OUTSIDE, THE VOID IGNITES, RUPTURED BY A CASCADE OF ENERGY THAT CARRIES WITH IT A SWARM OF POD-LIKE OBJECTS...
THEY ARE MOVING AT SEVERAL TIMES THE SPEED OF SOUND...
...AND THE DRIFTING KREE SHIP IS RIGHT IN THEIR PATH.

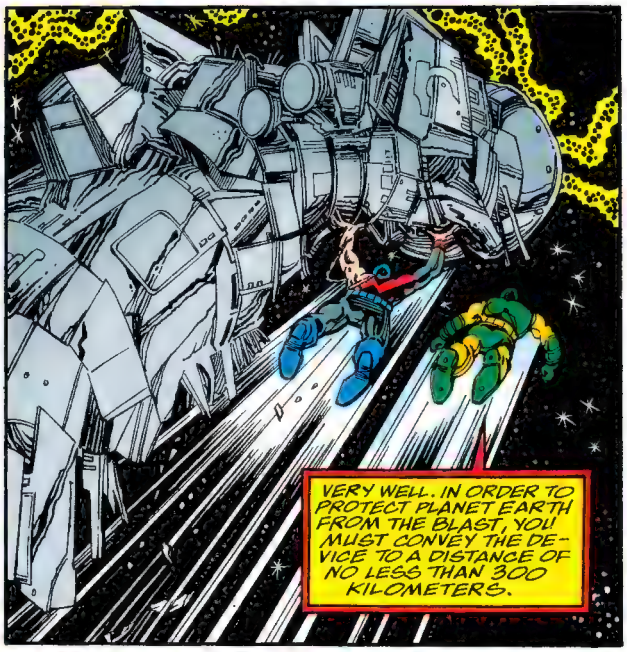
WHAT THE BLAZES ARE THOSE?! THEY'RE HEADING STRAIGHT FOR U--

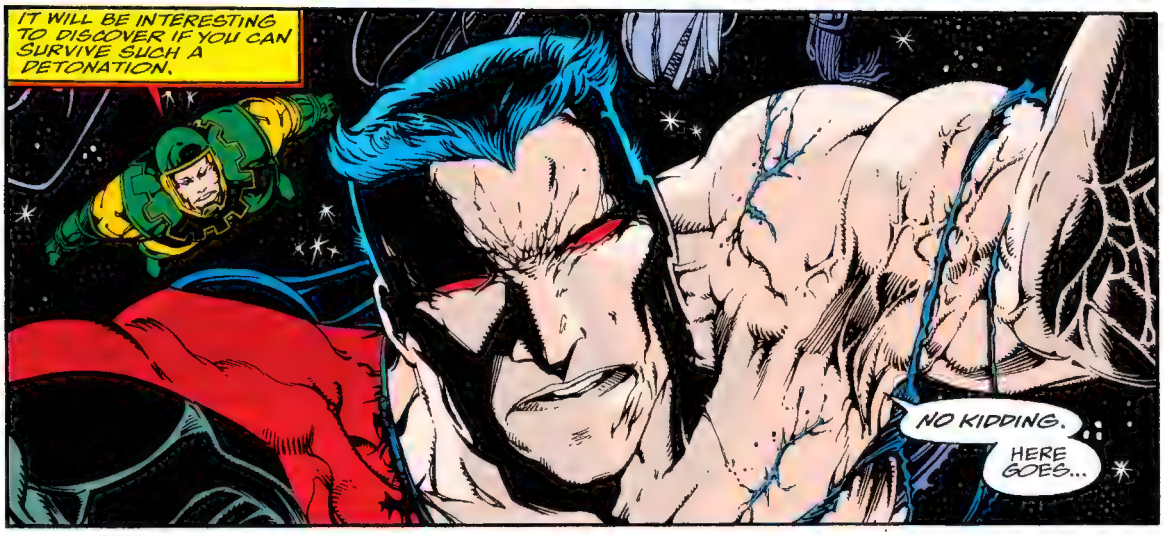

FFRAKTAMM
RECORDER!

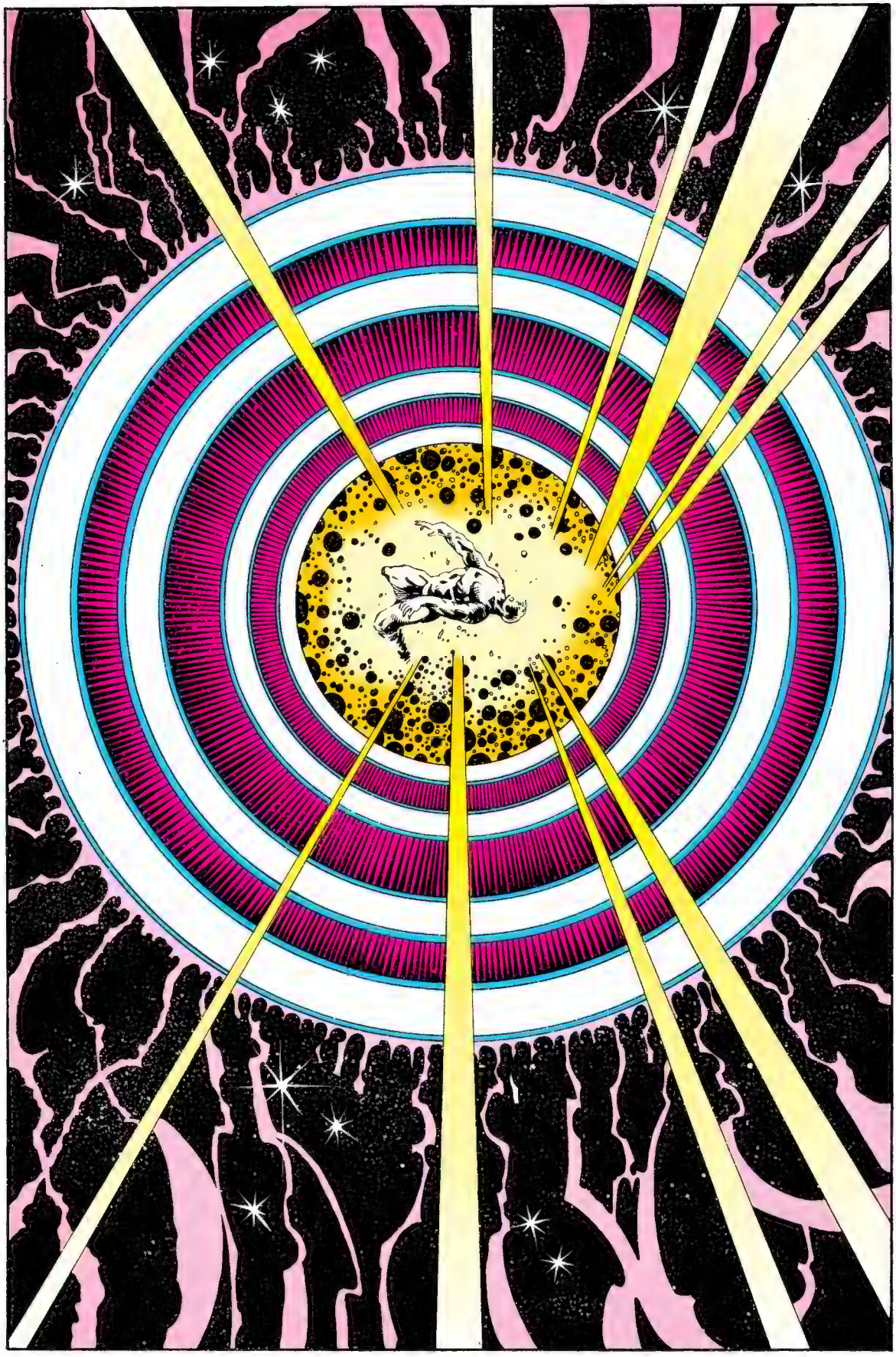
THE MAIN POWER CELLS OF THE ION CANNON HAVE RUPTURED... AND WILL EXPLODE IN 12 SECONDS.
COLLISION WITH TWO UNKNOWN POD VESSELS HAS CAUSED SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TO THIS KREE WARSHIP.
WHAT?! YOU MEAN I'M RIGHT BACK WHERE I STARTED?

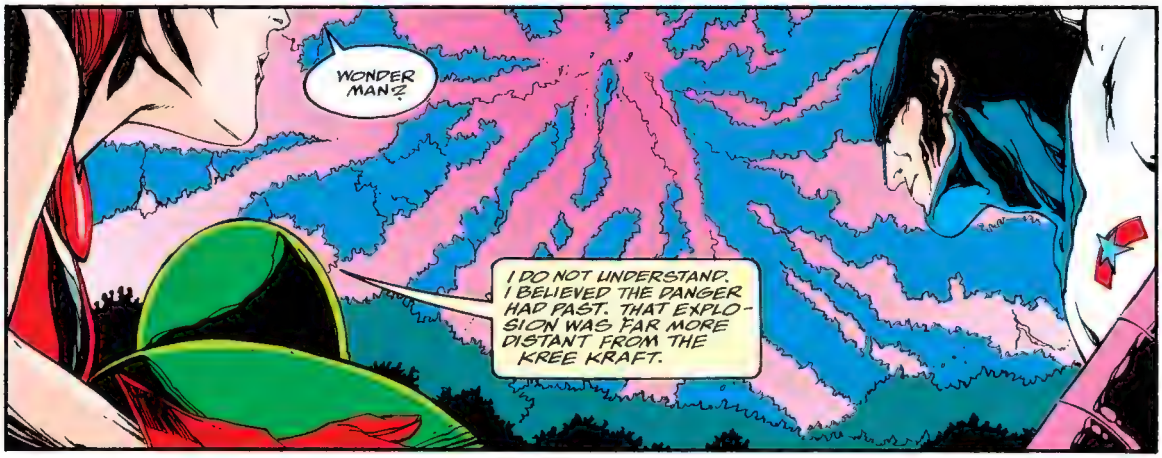

QUERY? ARE YOU MAKING ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO SAVE YOUR PLANET? THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS ARE REMOTE. THE LOGICAL OPTION WOULD BE TO PRESERVE YOURSELF.
YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU, RECORDER?


I WILL NOT GIVE UP!!

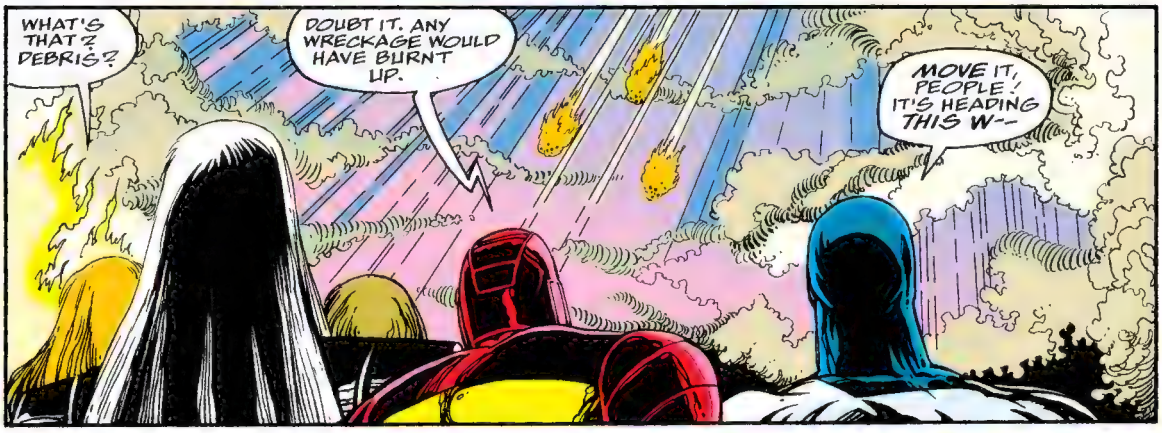

VERY WELL. IN ORDER TO PROTECT PLANET EARTH FROM THE BLAST, YOU MUST CONVEY THE DEVICE TO A DISTANCE OF NO LESS THAN 300 KILOMETERS.

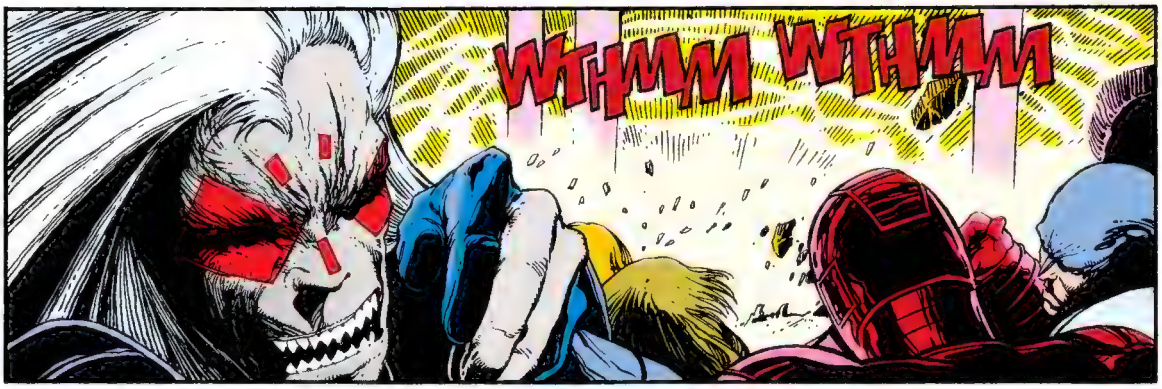

IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO DISCOVER IF YOU CAN SURVIVE SUCH A DETONATION.
NO KIDDING.
HERE GOES...

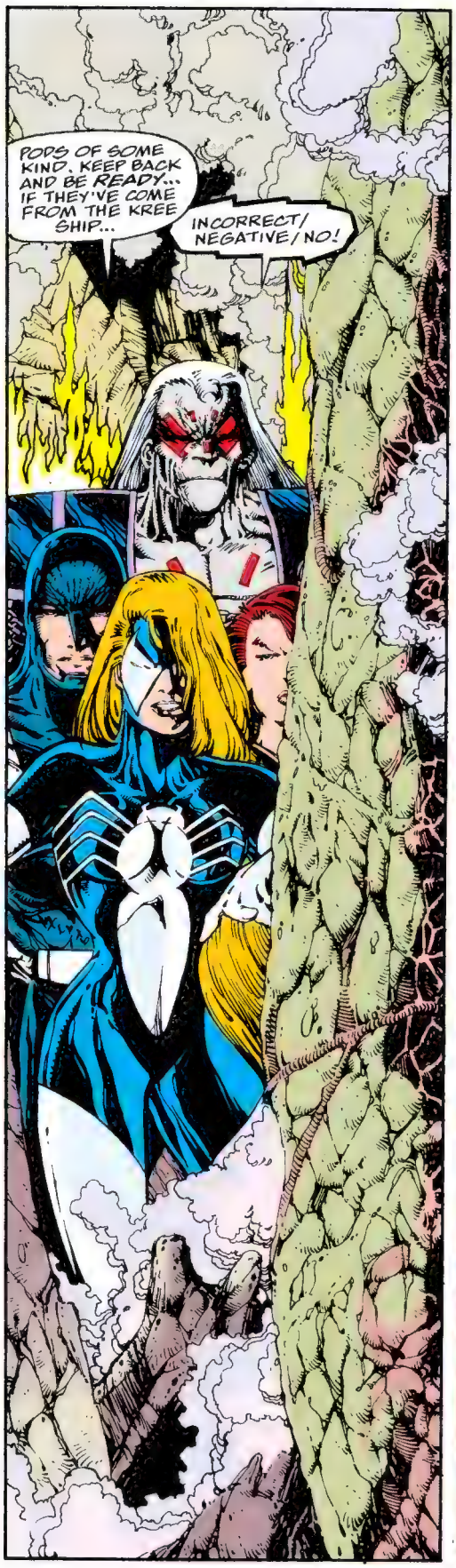


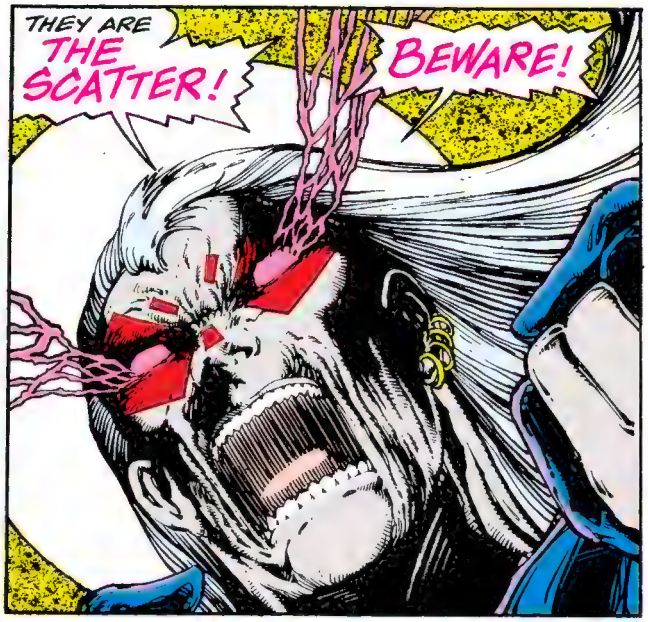

WONDER MAN?
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND. I BELIEVED THE DANGER HAD PAST. THAT EXPLOSION WAS FAR MORE DISTANT FROM THE KREE KRAFT.

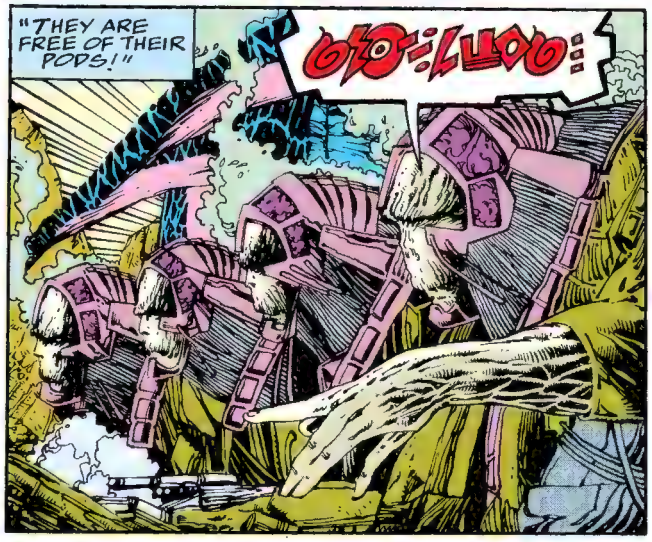
THE SKY IS FULL OF IONIC DISCHARGE. I FEAR FOR WONDER MAN'S SAFETY.
NO...

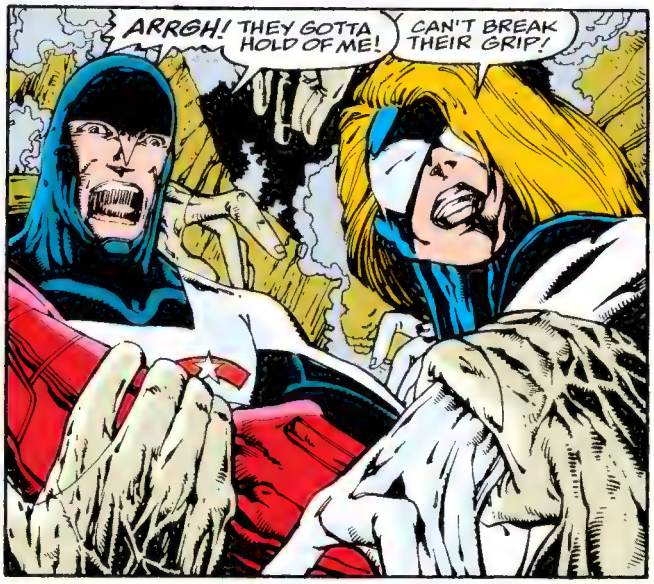

WHAT'S THAT? DEBRIS?
DOUBT IT. ANY WRECKAGE WOULD HAVE BURNT UP.
MOVE IT, PEOPLE! IT'S HEADING THIS W--


WTHMM WTHMM


PODS OF SOME KIND. KEEP BACK AND BE READY... IF THEY'VE COME FROM THE KREE SHIP...
INCORRECT/ NEGATIVE/ NO!

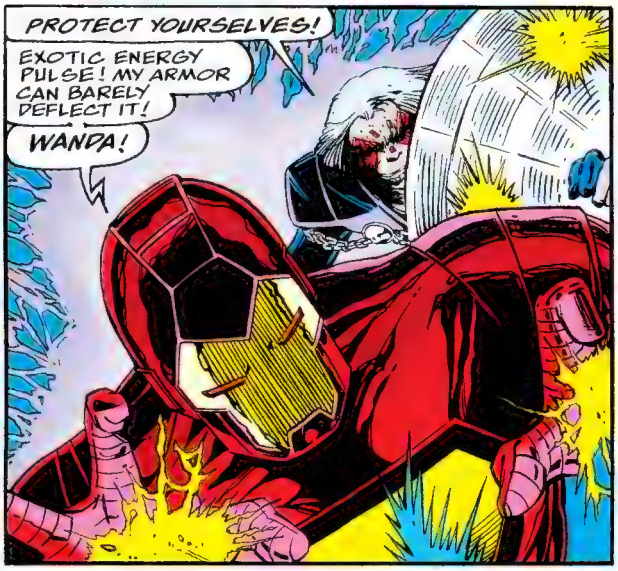

THEY ARE THE SCATTER!
BEWARE!


"THEY ARE FREE OF THEIR PODS!"
GRRRRRR!

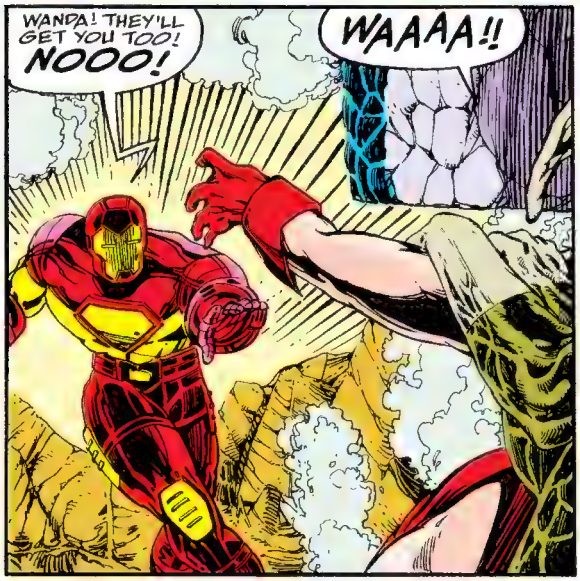

ARRGH! THEY GOTTA HOLD OF ME!
CAN'T BREAK THEIR GRIP!

IRON MAN! WANDA! HELP US!!

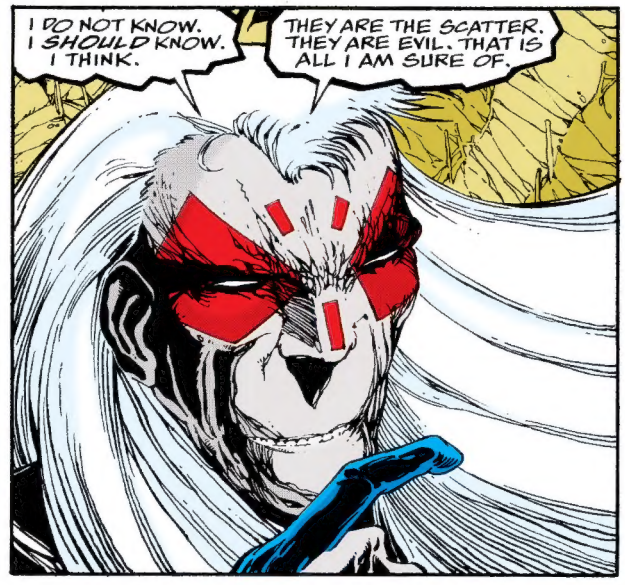
ZZKKK ZZKKK

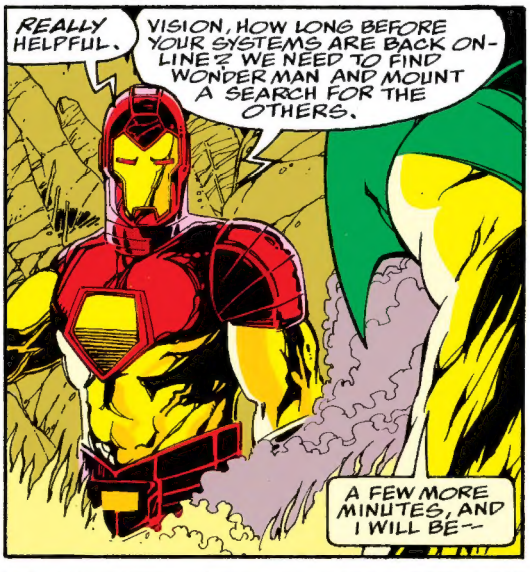

PROTECT YOURSELVES!
EXOTIC ENERGY PULSE! MY ARMOR CAN BARELY DEFLECT IT!
WANDA!

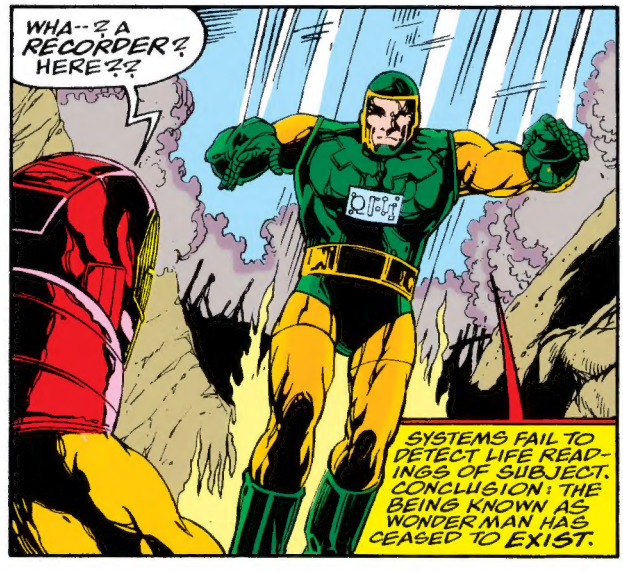
THEY'RE BEING DRAGGED INTO THE PODS!
HANG ON, SPI! I'VE GOT YOU!

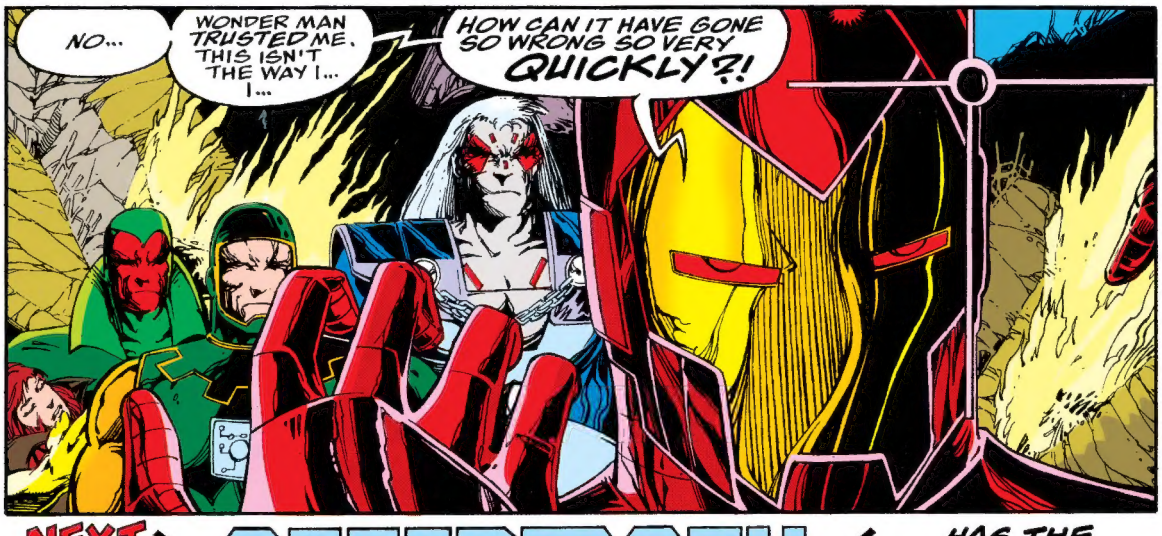

WANDA! THEY'LL GET YOU TOO! NOOO!
WAAAA!!

THEY'RE VANISHING! VANISHING!!
FFRSHK









NEXT ISSUE > AFTERMATH < HAS THE DREAM ALREADY DIED?

FORCE WORKS

c/o Marvel Comics Group — 387 Park Avenue South — New York, NY 10016
Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name & address, though we will withhold that information on request.

You can catch your breath now, folks — it's here! Welcome to the breathtaking, rip-roaring, trend-setting first issue of FORCE WORKS! While you probably already know the characters, the new creative team may not be as familiar to you. So put your hands together and join us in welcoming aboard our *Team de Force*!

Busy at the word processor are our dynamic and prolific writers Dan Abnett and Andy Lanning, who provided the emotional and cataclysmic finale for AVENGERS WEST COAST #102. Our artistic duo consists of penciler Tom Tenney and inker Rey Garcia, who are sure to take the comic world by storm with their devastating new style of art! Joining these guys are colorist supreme Joe Rosas and master scriber Jack Morelli on letters. Rounding off the FORCE WORKS team on the editorial side are yours truly, editor Nel Yomtov, and the lowly (but hard-working) assistant editor, Michael Marts. We're all shootin' to reach heights undreamt of with the fresh and exciting direction that FORCE WORKS will take!

If you look above, you'll notice only the FORCE WORKS logo adorns the head of the page. We need a title for this forum of fan response! So come on! We want the suggestions pouring in! The winner gets our heartfelt thanks as well as the actual letters page from AWC #102. How's that for an incentive? And as long as the suggestions come rolling in, how about some letters, too? Let us know what you think of this issue, of the team members, the art, the story, etc. The success of the book depends on you. So don't let us down!

NEL + MIKE

Let's start off the beginning of this bold new era with responses from the end of another. . .

Greetings Marvelous Ones,

Well and so, the West Coast Avengers have finally met that demise that so many other teams have met with Universe-shattering Big Bangs, dimension-rending cataclysms, or (even worse) psychological fanfares that boggle most of us readers with the question "Just what the *#@% happened here?"

It has left me with only one option, and that is this — I applaud you on one of the most adult transitions I have ever seen formatted in almost thirty years of my reading comics magazines. Bravo!

The AWC and their present members have metamorphosed into a group that does not fit well with their Eastern representatives. Why should they compromise their abilities and long service to the prerequisites of Captain America; the analysis of the Vision (who doesn't seem to be able to analyze his own comings and goings these days); the Black Widow, a comparative on-hand newcomer; and last but not least Hercules, who through many of his own actions in several episodes has shown us he often does not have a godly pedestal to stand on. Reserve status? I cheer the Scarlet Witch's contempt at the thought. They have proven themselves time after time and have seldom come up lacking.

High drama some may think, but it sure made a darn good read. And I for one cannot wait to see what Iron Man (and you) have up your sleeves in the future FORCE WORKS series.

Nel, you ended the last AWC letter line with thanks for being along for the ride. Well, somehow I think the roller coaster just rounded the first bend for these particular heroes. Heroes for the Future!

Mathew Price
140 Fletcher St.
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Nel and Mike couldn't agree with you more, Mathew. While the roller coaster that was AVENGERS WEST COAST was packed with great adventures and greater excitement, FORCE WORKS proves to be even *greater* in its continuous effort to provide action-packed, soul-searing, dramatic escapades on a galactic scale. And that's all in the first few issues! Like you said, the ride has only just begun. . .

Dear West Coasters,

WOW!

I've been reading Marvel Comics for the better part of ten years. Never in all that time have I been more wholly impressed with a story than I was with AWC #102.

Back in the summer of 1986, in a small bookshop in South Haven, Michigan, I purchased a copy of WEST COAST AVENGERS #12. I was enamored with this awkward band of heroes, and wanted to have the scoop on all of their exploits, so over the next seven years, I completed my collection of the entire series, concluding, of course, with #102. From the Vision's stark appearance on page one, this was a winner. Strange to see the team's originator disassemble the team in a few brief panels. The reactions of Wanda and the Agent are not to be unexpected, but Tony Stark's clash with Rhodey on page 14 is what really clinched it for me. I had to read it twice to fully assimilate its impact.

As for the disbanding itself, I'm forced to agree with the reasons given on the letters page. I follow both titles monthly, and except for a similar name, the two books had nothing in common. The two teams were as alike as U.S. Agent and Cap.

I'll be waiting day and night for FORCE WORKS #1. It promises to be a new beginning for these misbegotten heroes. Once again, fantastic job!!!

Charles Carden
1124 Lakeside Dr.
E. Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Day and night, huh? Well, was the wait worth the comic you now hold in your hands? Sure it was! We intend to agree with you, Charles, that AWC #102 was extremely impressive and full of impact. The force (no pun intended) of this issue's earth-shaking outcome will surely rock the walls of the Marvel Universe for years to come. Not to mention the sheer impact that *this* issue's conclusion will have. . . What do you all think of Wonder Man's apparent demise? Go on, write to us, and tell us your innermost thoughts and feelings.

Dear Sirs:

The Avengers West Coast no more? That's a bitter pill for me to swallow! Especially sour was the death of Mockingbird, after she and Hawkeye finally got their acts (and marriage) back together.

However, you will be forgiven if FORCE WORKS turns out to be as good as its hype, and after AWC #102, it seems likely. This FORCE probably will WORK.

One suggestion (which you probably won't go for, but I'm going to suggest anyway) is to work Thunderstrike into this group. My main reason for suggesting him is of course because he's one of my favorites (along with Hawkeye, U.S. Agent, and War Machine). However, I think he would also make a good addition because I see him as struggling to fit Captain America's Avengers ideal. Besides, New York's got enough heroes, they can spare one or so.

Okay, enough of my ravings and wishful thinking. The best of luck with the new series. You can count on me from start to finish, same as I was with AWC.

Lance W. Ransch
6800A Pine Ct.
Coloma, MI 49038-9610

Thanks for sticking with us, Lance. True, it seems that several of Thunderstrike's problems with Cap and the Avengers mirror the same difficulties that the Force Works team had just recently. Unfortunately, though, there are no plans for Eric to join this merry group at present. We will, however, say that there is a new member. . .and that you've already met him/her. Interested? Stay tuned!!!

NEXT ISSUE: Spider-Woman, U.S. Agent, and Scarlet Witch held captive at the hands of the alien Scatter! Wonder Man. . .dead!? And is Iron Man in danger while in the presence of the mysterious Century? Find out in thirty! Seeya then!

J.A. Jenney
Andy Lanning

Shadowcat